

A PROUD TRADITION -

A WORTHY MISSION

SAVING LIVES!



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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

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COAST
GUARD
AUXILIARY**

topside

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fall 2019

Volume 116, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Table of Contents	2
5NR Leadership	2
Commodore’s Message	3-4
Chief of Staff’s Message	5
Focus on History	6-11
Information from Around the District	12-32
Photographs	33-38
Message from the Editor	39
Contact Information	39
Parting Shot	40

Leadership of 5NR

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)	
LCDR Victoria Taylor	
Operations Training Officer (OTO)	
CWO4 Douglas Schubert	
District Commodore (DCO)	
COMO Thomas J. Dever	
District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)	
Joseph J. Giannattasio	
District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)	
Kurt P. Sarac, Sr	
District Captain East (DCAPT-E)	
Noreen Schifini	
District Captain West (DCAPT-W)	
Robert J. Kuhn	
Immediate Past Commodore	
COMO Barry M. Kyper	
President Past Captains Association	
Alfred O. Grimminger	
Division Commanders	
DCDR 01	Donald W. Merrill
DCDR 04	Peter A. Lacey
DCDR 07	Allan R. Cromheim Sr.
DCDR 08	James Edward Hans
DCDR 12	Peter C Branker
DCDR 15	Diego Herrera
DCDR 16	Paul R. Casalese
DCDR 17	William E. Eisenhower
DCDR 18	Kathleen A. Kunyczka
DCDR 19	J. Douglas Willwerth
DCDR 20	Mark Eugene Lancaster
DCDR 21	Michael B. McElwee

D-AD	Jason C. Flynn, Donald W. Merrill
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
DFSO	Thomas Callahan III
DDC-Logistics	Mark F. Letavish
DSO-CS	Richard Taylor, II
DSO-FS	Noreen Schifini
DSO-HR	Steven G. Trojanov
DSO-IS	COMO Jan Robert Munroe
DSO-MA	Scott J. Supplee
DSO-PB	Timothy P Marks
DSO-SR	Marilyn F. Hughes
DDC-Prevention	Alfred O. Grimminger
DSO-MS	Gregg R. Bollinger
DSO-MT	Theodore R. Hall
DSO-NS	Frank J. Williams
DSO-PA	COMO Kevin C. Murphy
DSO-PE	Marilyn F. Hughes
DSO-PV	Russell M. Galson
DSO-VE	Edwin W. Seda
DSO-AS	William T. Skelly
DDC-Response	Douglas L. Smith
DSO-IM	Gregory M. Stough
DSO-CM	Richard F. Lord
DSO-AV	William A. Fithian
DSO-OP	Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

Front Cover: A photograph of a U S Coast Guard Auxiliary Recruiting poster that was designed and printed by the GPO (Government Printing Office) in 1965.

From the Desk of the Commodore

Recruiting, Retention and Recognition...and Sea Scouts!

We asked for your help and you've really stepped up - thank you 5NR members for your successful efforts this year! Members throughout the district in 2019 have been working hard to recruit new members, to retain them and to recognize them for their accomplishments.

In 2020 we will continue to keep our focus on these goals. It is very exciting to have so many new opportunities to work directly with the Active Duty Coast Guard and the boating public, but we need more, well trained, motivated members in order to do it! Throughout 2020 I'll be highlighting opportunities and successes with recruiting, retention and recognition.

Here is what we've already accomplished:

- **Recruiting:** In 5NR we have brought in over 135 new members so far this year - that is wonderful! Talk us up! I am amazed at the impact even a short conversation with a boater or member of the public can have. We have a great story to tell and most of the public doesn't know what we do or that they can join us. Plant that seed in a short conversation and you'll find many people who would like to do what we do - especially now that we can do so many different things! New and varied programs are attracting great members with non-traditional interests - chaplains, interpreters, Food Service, Incident management, Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners, Incident Management Team members, to name only a few.
- **Retention:** Our focus at all levels of leadership has to be on making membership meaningful and worthwhile. Please focus on training and activities for all members and minimize the time spent on business meetings. Invite new members to activities rather than meetings whenever possible. Always have mentors assist newer members! Please have them attend District events - especially D-Trains - you'll be amazed at the enthusiasm it will generate!
- **Recognition:** Please continue to send award recommendations whenever a member's accomplishments deserve it - this matters more than you may think.

Now for our newest opportunity:

The new AuxScout program is now "live" in District 5NR. The Boy Scouts of America's coed Sea Scout program is now the Auxiliary's official youth program, broadening the Auxiliary's efforts to reach out to young boaters and encourage them to consider Coast Guard careers. This partnership gives Sea Scouts an opportunity to benefit from Coast Guard seamanship and vocational training, while introducing Sea Scouts to the Coast Guard. You will be hearing a lot more about this partnership in 2020!

After a District-wide search, we now have a DSO-AuxScout: William (Bill) Skelly of Flotilla 18-04. I will soon appoint the ADSOs and your Division Commanders will be asked to appoint SOs.



Commodore Thomas J. Dever
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

Continued on the next page...

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

This will also be an added source of new Auxiliary members - there is a lot of enthusiasm from both Sea Scouts and their parents! Sea Scouts can even join the Auxiliary at 14, 15 or 16 year of age. To learn more, attend D-Train on 13, 14 and 15 March at the Crowne Plaza in Reading, PA.

Here is some more information. The Auxiliary Sea Scout Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document is available here: <https://seascout.org/cgaux>. There are many opportunities for collaboration between the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts. Check [AuxBWiki](#) for more information and resources to put the agreement into use.

Once again, thank you all for everything you do for the boating public, the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard and for your country. Don't forget to talk up the Auxiliary in elevators, diners, at holiday parties and to anyone you think would make a great shipmate. We have a great story to tell!



**WE WANT YOU TO BE A
DEDICATED VOLUNTEER
IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Find out how you can be
a member by contacting
the number below.**

**U.S. COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY**

USCGA-P-007

This is our latest recruiting poster. Every division should have received them. If you can use more, please contact Steve Trojanov, DSO-HR through your flotilla commander or SO-HR at sgtrojanov@comcast.net. This one is 8 1/2" x 11" but the district will be happy to provide other sizes or designs.

Message from the Chief of Staff

Your History Begins Now

By Joseph Giannattasio, District Chief of Staff

2019 marked the 80-year anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary; and this year is the best time to start researching the history of your Flotilla and Division. Many of the original Auxiliary units began in the Mid-Atlantic States and District 5NR contains some of the oldest Flotillas in the Country. Whether your Flotilla or Division is old or new, now is the time to begin researching or up-dating the rich and unique history of your unit. Knowing your unit's history brings pride and a unique perspective to an Auxiliarist's membership. It is also a great news story for local broadcast and print media that can promote the Auxiliary and attract new members to your unit.



Joseph Giannattasio
District Chief of Staff
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

How to research your history:

Be advised that if your unit has a charter date of 1959 on file, that is essentially a “default” charter date; this is the year Coast Guard files were computerized, so you may have a much older unit. Otherwise, in researching your unit's history, the following is recommended:



1. Interview longtime current and past flotilla members and collect documents for donation to the Auxiliary national records collection and artifacts that will be incorporated into the Coast Guard collection; collected items may be shipped through your District Chief of Staff or the designated archivist at Sector Delaware Bay via the DIRAUX office. Items can include old manuals and publications, photographs, uniform items and vintage equipment (banners, flags, training aides, etc.)
2. Contact your area libraries to search for publications and past articles on the Auxiliary.
3. Contact your local historical society.
4. Many Auxiliary units were originally formed from yacht club memberships; contact local yacht clubs to see if they hold Auxiliary documents and/or photographs.

Coast Guard Auxiliary history research can be an amazing adventure once you have experienced how fascinating it can be.

Happy Hunting!

A Focus on History



Presidential Proclamation



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 2019

As Commander in Chief, I am pleased to join our grateful Nation in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Since 1939, the dedicated men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary have served our Nation with courage, honor, and resolve, selflessly volunteering to help preserve the safety and security of our Nation's coasts and waterways. From keeping a vigilant watch over America's shorelines during World War II to helping achieve today's historic low rates in national boating accidents and fatalities, Coast Guard Auxiliarists have consistently set the standard for excellence.

For the past 80 years, Coast Guard Auxiliarists have exemplified the Coast Guard's motto of *Semper Paratus*, consistently providing rapid and vital support in the wake of major national response and recovery operations. During Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017, and Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018, the men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary were among the first to assist in civilian relief and cleanup efforts. Moreover, they have been at the vanguard of recreational boating safety, educating the public in classrooms, in marine equipment retail outlets, and at boat ramps and marinas across America. This unparalleled devotion demonstrated throughout their distinguished history embodies the highest levels of citizenship, patriotism, and community service.

Melania joins me in thanking the Coast Guard Auxiliarists and all of our Nation's service members for their service and sacrifice. We send our best wishes for a memorable and joyous celebration.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Donald Trump, positioned at the bottom of the page.

History of the Past Officer Device

by Joseph Giannattasio

Although the Coast Guard Auxiliary has been a component of the Coast Guard since 1939, Auxiliarists do not have military rank, but they do wear military rank-style insignia that signify their office (e.g., a Flotilla Commander wears insignia similar to a USCG lieutenant, but is not referred to as "Lieutenant"). The purpose of the Auxiliary's rank-style insignia is to identify the Auxiliarist's position within the organization and recognize the responsibilities of elected and appointed leaders and staff officers. Past elected and appointed leaders are authorized to permanently wear the insignia of the highest office held if they held such office for at least half of its term. When insignia no longer indicates current elected or appointed status in the office represented by the insignia, Auxiliarists must wear the past officer device.

There is very little documentation available on the topic but research indicates that the symbology to denote a past office has varied over the years with the changes of the Auxiliary uniform.

Prior to 1972, all Coast Guard personnel, including Auxiliarists, wore the same uniforms as the United States Navy with distinctive Coast Guard insignia. Insignia for Auxiliary members were worn on the lower sleeves of their uniform and had only a gold embroidered outline of a U.S. shield with "USCG" above, and an "A" below. Flotilla Vice Commander (also Flotilla training officer) had the addition of a single bar of gold wire embroidery. Also of the same insignia attached to the flotilla was the flotilla staff officer, which has the same insignia design, but with a silver embroidered circle outlined with a gold border. These office insignias progressed up to four bars for a division captain (Now Division Commander), additional stars designated the levels of commodore with the embroidered circles indicating appointed staff officers at corresponding levels. These were only worn on the right sleeve.



Left: Insignia for Past Flotilla Staff Officer. [left sleeve] (1939-1972)

Right: Insignia for Flotilla Staff Officer. [right sleeve] (1939-1972)

Photographed by Joseph Giannattasio from his personal collection

Past offices were designated on the left sleeve minus the Auxiliary shield, which denoted completion of a term of elected or appointed office (i.e., Past Officer Device).

Continued on the next page...

History of the Past Officer Device continued

In 1972, Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Chester R. Bender introduced a new set of blue uniforms for wear by all Coast Guard personnel, which were also adopted by the Auxiliary. Unlike Navy uniforms, the new "Bender's blues" uniforms made few distinctions between officers and enlisted personnel, with all ranks generally wearing the same style of uniform (with the exception of a few formal uniforms reserved for officers only). The Auxiliary sleeve insignia was replaced by shoulder boards of black cloth background, silver button, silver lace stripes and shield. Past officers were indicated by unique shoulder boards that incorporated the newly authorized Past Officer Shield - a silver shield with a wreath on the lower sides of the shield. In the 1980s the Auxiliary shoulder board background color was changed to the current shade of blue adopted by the Coast Guard when they changed uniforms.



Original version of the Past Officer Device. (1976 - present).

*Photographed by Joseph Giannattasio
from his personal collection*

On March 29, 1976, the Past Officer device currently utilized was authorized to be worn on appropriate Auxiliary uniforms by past appointed or elected leaders according to policy. This device does not come with a red or blue "A" to distinguish past elected officers from appointed officers. The appropriate office insignia remains the distinguishing mark.



Shoulder board Insignia for Past Vice Flotilla Commander. (1972-1976) [Note Past Officer Shield.]

*Photographed by Joseph Giannattasio
from his personal collection*

SOURCES:

- USCG Auxiliary Membership Qualification Guide - CG-302 - April 1955
- Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling. 1959 edition.
- U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. NAVIGATOR, 1961-present. (Official publication of the USCG-AUXILIARY)
- USCG Auxiliary Basic Qualification Supplement - CG-302-1 - 1974
- Military Specification Sheet. Auxiliary, Past Officer (USCG). MIL-D-164575/56 - March 29, 1976

80TH Anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary

25 JUN 2019

Congratulations, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary! June 23, 2019 marked your 80th anniversary! Since 1939 you have been ready, willing, and able to support Coast Guard missions while sharing your knowledge, experience, and resources with generations of Coast Guard shipmates. To mark this prestigious milestone and recognize the Auxiliary's ever-expanding legacy of devoted service, the following highlights have recently occurred:

a. Having rightfully earned the moniker of the world's premiere maritime volunteer service along with the highest respect and admiration of the international maritime public, all Coast Guard Auxiliarists who have served at least one day during the period June 24, 2014 to June 23, 2019 are awarded the Coast Guard Unit Commendation (CGUC, citation attached). This award has been signed by the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz. Appropriate AUXDATA entries will be made by the Chief Director of Auxiliary office to all active member records. Corresponding ribbon and star supplies will be shipped soon to District Director of Auxiliary offices for further distribution (there is no CGUC medal).



Captain Scott L. Johnson
Chief Director of Auxiliary

b. ALCOAST 214/19 addresses the 80th anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It was released on June 24, 2019 by Admiral Karl Schultz, and can be found at: <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/General-Messages/ALCOAST/>

c. The President of the United States, Donald Trump, signed a Presidential Proclamation on June 23, 2019 recognizing the outstanding service of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (letter attached).

d. On June 24, 2019, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, delivered a speech on the House floor honoring the Auxiliary's 80th anniversary (Congressional Record text attached).

e. A post recognizing the Auxiliary's 80th anniversary can also be found in the Compass Blog at: <https://compass.coastguard.blog/>

These highlights will be accompanied by many others at the Auxiliary National Convention (NACON) in Orlando, Florida August 23-24, 2019.

Congratulations again to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Captain Scott L. Johnson, Chief Director of Auxiliary

Coast Guard Auxiliary 80th Birthday honored at USCG Training Center Sunset Parade

by Joseph Giannattasio

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Mike Hamilton

CAPE MAY, N.J. – U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May hosted a Sunset Parade in honor of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Training Center, on June 30th 2019 at 8:10 p.m.

Nearly 30 members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th Northern Region - Division 8 were honored by sitting in the review stand, and having Jim Hans Division Commander 08 join the official party with CAPT Owen Gibbons, Commanding Officer, as he reviewed the recruit battalion.

Sunset Parades are military displays of marching troops and the Coast Guard Recruit Precision Drill Team. More than 250 recruits marched in the parade and struck the National Ensign from the parade field at sunset. Comprised of nearly 24,000 men and women, the Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the Coast Guard. It works within the Coast Guard in carrying out its noncombatant and non-law enforcement missions.



Information from Around the District



Sector Delaware Bay Help Needed

Request 2019-025 for Clerical Staff in Medical Office at Sector Delaware Bay. This request is a long standing request, meaning that we need the member to come in at least once a week for several months / years. Basically this job can be a temporary job or a permanent job depending on what is good for the member volunteering.

1. Description of Duties:

Clerical Support for Sector Delaware Bay's Medical Department. No medical training needed as this is clerical duties, such as filing. A medical background is helpful but not required.

2. Skillset/Competency Needed:

Clerical such as filing.

3. Timeline Needed:

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, OR Friday . Basically pick one of these days and stick with it. You can work one day or more a week.

0800-1500 - Any hours that the member can work between 0800-1500.

Sector Delaware Bay
1 Washington Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19147

4. Point of Contact:

CDR Paul Fawcett
Paul.A.Fawcett@uscg.mil

If interested in this position, please email Commander Fawcett.

5. Number of Aux requested:

1-3 (We need to fill each day of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday)



Sector Delaware Bay Help Needed

Request 2019-027 for one member to liaison with Sector Delaware Bay Command Center concerning derelict boats.

1. Description of Duties:

Liaison between the Command Center and D5North Aux about derelict boats.

Ask D5North members to help find derelict boats and report to you.

You will submit pictures to the Command Center of the derelict boats and all information that D5 North AUX provide you.

You may liaison in person, by email, OR by phone.

Basically, you will be the one point of contact between Sector Delaware Bay Command Center and D5North Aux.

2. Skillset/Competency Needed:

Knowledgeable in prevention. Knowledge of the Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania area.

3. Timeline Needed:

Ongoing job. Needed ASAP.

Sector Delaware Bay

1 Washington Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19147

4. Point of Contact:

CWO Dan Capestany

Daniel.A.Capestany@uscg.mil

If interested in this position, please email CWO Dan Capestany.

5. Number of Aux requested:

1



Philadelphia Help Needed

AUXILIARY SUPPORT FOR ANT PHILADELPHIA

Description: The Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) in Philadelphia, PA is seeking Auxiliary volunteers to provide operational and administrative support for team operations in the following areas:

- Administrative and maintenance support for rescue and survival systems
- Support for routine servicing of aids to navigation (ATON)
- Response to reports regarding aids that are not watching properly
- Participating as a boat crew member aboard specialized ANT work boats

Basic engineering, maintenance, and shop work

Qualifications, Skill Sets, and Competencies Needed:

- Interested Auxiliarists should be prepared to participate in rigorous training programs under the tutelage of experienced, Command-designated USCG and Auxiliary personnel.
- Auxiliarists must also be sufficiently computer literate to compose and answer emails, assist in making reports, and entering results of inspections in associated databases.
- Only Auxiliarists with current boat crew or coxswain qualifications will be allowed to train for operational support missions aboard specialized work boats.
- Qualification as an Auxiliary Assistant Aid Verifier (AUX-AV w/ PQS) and Advanced Coastal Navigation Specialist (AUX-ACN) is highly desirable but not required.

Participants in this program must be reasonably fit. To work in the field, they must be able to climb ladders, lift 40 pounds, and have a full range of movement in their extremities.

Number of Auxiliarists Requested: Three to four

Timeline Needed:

- Volunteers can begin training almost immediately.
- Again, this qualification involves an extensive training program. The duration of that training will vary for each individual based on prior experience and the time commitment that the Auxiliarist is willing to make.
- Volunteers selected for this program should be prepared to commit to at least four days per month to their training and, later, work at the unit.
- Coast Guard and Auxiliary trainers are prepared to make an extensive investment of time and effort to assist new volunteers in the qualification process. While unforeseen events happen to everyone, the normal expectation is that volunteers will participate in the program for at least two years after completion of training.

Point of Contact: The point of contact for interested Auxiliary volunteers is Tom Roberson at tomroberson@verizon.net.

Air Station Atlantic City Help Needed

Request 2019-026 for watchstanding at Air Station Atlantic City. This request is a long standing request, meaning that we need the member to come in at least once a week for several months / years. Basically this job can be a temporary job or a permanent job depending on what is good for the member volunteering.

1. Description of Duties:

Stand watch during the day. Monitoring flight schedule, manning the phone/radio (comms watch). Coordinating initial response to Search and Rescue (SAR) launch.

2. Skillset/Competency Needed:

Proficient on phones/radio. Familiar with Search and Rescue. Station will train if needed. Member will need a secret clearance, which they can apply for through us.

3. Timeline Needed:

Monday - Friday. Basically pick one of these days and stick with it. You can work one day or more a week.

0800-1500

Air Station Atlantic City
William J. Hughes Technical Center
Building #350
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

4. Point of Contact:

LT Tyler Bittner
Tyler.J.Bittner@uscg.mil

If interested in this position, please email LT Bittner.

5. Number of Aux requested:

1-3



Marine Safety Article

A First for LNG-Fueled Con-Ros

Major shipper, Crowley Maritime, has launched one of the first combined container/roll-on/roll-off ships or "con-ros," to be fueled by Liquid Natural Gas or LNG. The El Coqui made its maiden voyage on 27 JULY transiting from Jacksonville, FL to San Juan, Puerto Rico. The name "El Coqui" is in honor of a popular frog native to Puerto Rico.

El Coqui is a 720', 26,500-DWT ship which can transport up to 2,400 TEU at a cruising speed of 22 kts. Along with a variety of containers, the vessel can carry around 400 cars and other vehicles. This new con-ro is a very MARPOL ANNEX VI-friendly vessel. ANNEX VI deals with curbing air pollution by vessels at sea. LNG reduces emissions of sulfur Oxide (SOx) and particulate matter or PM by 100% and Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) by 92%.

There is a high degree of automation in the fuel gas design of El Coqui which affords a higher degree of efficiency and safety for the operator and provides for minimal negative impact on the environment

Currently, El Coqui is bunkering on every turnaround at the terminal in Jacksonville. Eventually this will be reduced by one-half which will make life a little easier as well as safer for her crew. While engaged in this bunkering operation, water cascading over the hull shields it from the LNG line running up the side to the ship's coupling. The water protects the ship from dangerous effects caused by the ship pulling away from the pier while still connected to the fuel line. A dry disconnect coupling is designed to not release any liquid at all. Because LNG turns to vapor quickly, only a significant failure would allow enough of a release of a liquid-state fuel. At -260 degrees F., an LNG leak would hit the water going over the hull and in the process, freeze and drop to the bottom harmlessly. However, if fuel did come in contact with the hull, the temperature drop would cause a crack in the hull.

The Coast Guard along with Crowley Maritime and classification society DNVGL, all cooperated in the design process for the building of this innovative vessel.

Gregg R. Bollinger, Th.D.

DSO-MS, D 5 NR



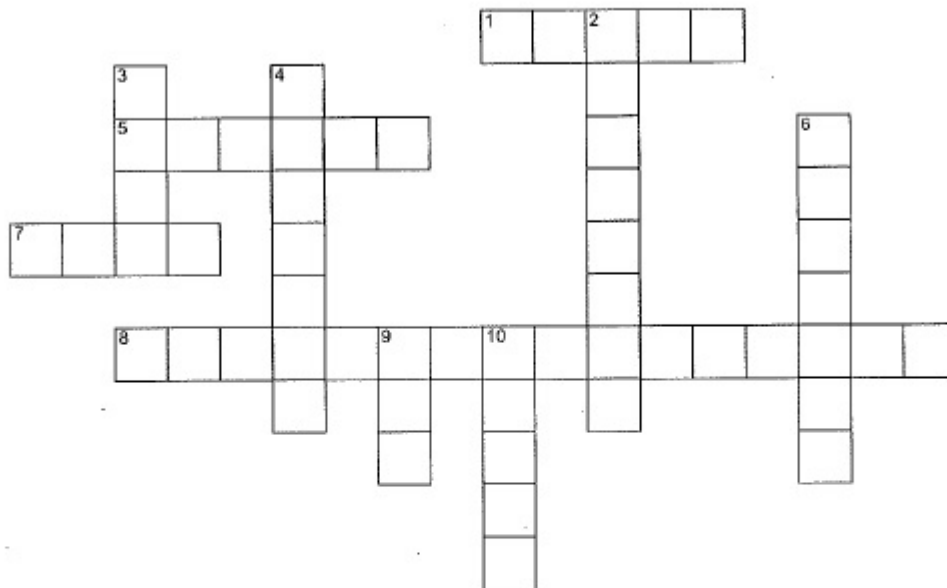
Gregg Bollinger
DSO
Marine Safety

Crossword Puzzle

Created by Christopher M. Orlando AUXPA3, ADSO-PB

Here is something new for your enjoyment. Hopefully this will be a regular addition in each issue of TOPSIDE. For an incentive, you can submit your answers to Christopher Orlando, ADSO-PB at uscgauxorlando@gmail.com.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Terms



ACROSS

- 1 Which District do we represent?
- 5 How many Divisions are within the 5NR District?
- 7 National USCGAUX Commodore last name
- 8 Which US government Department does the USCGAUX fall under?

DOWN

- 2 How many Directorates can be found on the USCGAUX website?
- 3 Aides to Navigation (Abb)
- 4 Flotilla Commander and Vice Commander are examples of _____ positions.
- 6 Name of our District Newsletter
- 9 Area of Responsibility (Abb)
- 10 Our District Commodore last name..

Local Community Members Make Thanksgiving For Coasties Who Can't Go Home

Article and Photos by Joseph Giannattasio

Cape May County is designated a Coast Guard Community. The Coast Guard is a major part of the economy and culture. More than 650 active duty, reserve, and civilian members work at USCG Training Center Cape May and the 15 tenant commands. Coast Guard active duty members and families in Cape May face the same hardships as service members stationed anywhere. Some are unable to go home and be with their families during the holiday. And some families are missing an essential element to their holiday celebrations – a deployed loved one.

For the second year in a row, members of the community showed their appreciation to the families of USCG Station Cape May and home-ported cutters for their sacrifices while giving them a thoughtful Thanksgiving meal —complete with all the trimmings, of course. John Burns, the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator for the STATION; Chef Robert Ohlsen, a Culinary Arts Instructor at the Cumberland County Technical Education Center, and Nick DiRenzo, owner of Westside Meats in Rio Grande worked with LT Jason Harczak, the STATION Commanding Officer to make a special family style dinner ... for a 'family' of 65 members.

Because Coast Guard personnel of the Duty Section need to be underway for an emergency in less than six minutes the dinner was held on the Coast Guard Base at the All Hands Club. Nick DiRenzo donated the food. Under the supervision of Chef Rob, John Burns and his wife Chris helped with food preparation and serving. Chef Rob's wife, Teresa, and his daughter Christina also helped in preparing and serving the dinner. STATION personnel and families decorated and set up tables and supplied soda, water, and cups. "Our goal is simply to provide Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, desserts, etc., to members of our Coast Guard community as a simple way of showing our appreciation to them, especially those who will not be able to travel home to be with family over the holiday," said DiRenzo.



Chef Rob Ohlsen preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

South Jersey Congressman Jeff Van Drew, D-2nd, stopped by to make a surprise visit to share Thanksgiving wishes and thank service members, the families, and veterans for their service. The Congressman also awarded a special Proclamation to Nick DiRenzo for his generosity and joined LT Harczak in presenting Chef Rob, John Burns and Nick DiRenzo with framed photographs of the STATION's compliment signed by each member.

Continued on the next page...

Local Community Members Make Thanksgiving For Coasties Who Can't Go Home

Article and Photos by Joseph Giannattasio

The dinner all came together perfectly. There were approximately 65 Active Duty personnel and family members who had the opportunity to sit down in a group setting and enjoy the delicious dinner provided by local Auxiliarists and family, a generous local business owner, and all prepared by a well know chef. In addition, some Officers of the Deck from Coast Guard Cutters were provided meals "to go". It all came together and was a memorable experience for all. It truly captured the meaning of giving thanks.



Chef Rob and Chris Burns serving Coast Guard members and families.



Congressman Jeff Van Drew, John Burns Coast Guard Auxiliary, Chef Rob Ohlsen.



LT Jason Harczak, Congressman Jeff van Drew,
Nick DiRenzo.

NACON 2019



ORLANDO - (LtoR) Joe Giannattasio DCOS and LCDR Victoria Taylor, DIRAUX 5NR attend the board meeting at the Auxiliary's National Conference (NACON). Held annually, NACON is where members can learn the latest information on Coast Guard Auxiliary programs, take advantage of very informative workshops, and in 2019 celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Auxiliary.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.



READING, PA - (LtoR) Kurt Sarac DCAPT-C, Joe Giannattasio DCOS and DCO Tom Dever confer during a break at the District Board Meeting at the 5th Northern District Fall DTRAIN. Held on the 2nd weekend of the months of March and September, members throughout the district come together at DTRAIN to share ideas and to attend classroom training sessions.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama

Rescue on 4 July 2019

In the Summer 2019 edition of TOPSIDE (volume 116, issue 2), a rescue was reported on page 16 entitled: Unprecedented Cooperation; Working Together on Marine Events and was Submitted by Andy Crowley 053-04-09 ADSO-OP. I now have obtained pictures of that rescue that I would like to share.



Boat crew involved in PIW recovery in the vicinity of Little Tinicum Island

The crew from USCG Station Philadelphia that responded in a Response Boat – Small (RB-S) were:

COX-BM1 Erin Doege
Crew- MK3 Dakota Fox
Crew- FN Gabriel Alafa
Crew- SN Lauren Bernard

The crew at the USCG Sector Delaware Bay Command Center

The crew from USCG Auxiliary SARDET Marcus Hook that responded in OPFAC 211993 were:

COX: Andrew Crowley (1210044)
CREW: John Yowell (1217860)
CREW: Timothy Youngern (3007549)

The crew from USCG Auxiliary Division 4 that responded in OPFAC 311444 were:

COX - Pete Lacey 04-09
Crew - Scott Graham 04-04
Crew - Tom Kelmartin 04-09

USCG Cutter EAGLE visits District 5NR

Article by Joseph Giannattasio

Photos by Barbara Sama and Joseph Giannattasio

PHILADELPHIA - THE USCG Cutter EAGLE visited the Fifth Northern District from September 27th to 29th and invited area Auxiliarists and their families for its sail up the Delaware River and to be among the VIP tours held each morning. The three-masted barque is the largest tall ship flying the American flag and is the only square-rigger in U.S. government service. Dubbed “America’s Tall Ship,” built in 1936 with teak wood decks laid over a steel hull, Eagle and her crew arrived in the district during the annual training cruise for candidates from the Officer Candidate School. It was a beautiful weekend for Auxiliarists and their families to visit Eagle docked at Penn’s Landing on the Delaware River and observe the type of onboard learning that cadets have experienced since the Coast Guard Academy was founded in 1876 aboard the schooner Dobbin. Back to a time when the ship was the school and the sea was the teacher.



Auxiliarist Frank Williams QMOW oversees Coast Guard Officer Candidates navigating the USCGC EAGLE on the Delaware River during its visit to Philadelphia. Frank Williams has been a qualified Quartermaster onboard EAGLE since 2015.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.



Auxiliarist Joseph Giannattasio before the emergency helm where “USCGC EAGLE” is inscribed on the brightwork of the wheel.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.

Continued on the next page....

USCG Cutter EAGLE visits District 5NR

Continued



District Commodore Thomas Dever and his wife Laurie enjoying the uniqueness America's Tall Ship. EAGLE's secondary mission is to represent the U.S. Coast Guard and the United States to the public and the international community. In this role, she has earned the nickname of "America's Tall Ship."

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.



(Left to Right) Captain Scott Anderson, C.O. Sector Delaware Bay and Commodore K.C. Murphy converse on the aft deck of USCGC EAGLE.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.



The ship's wheels used to steer EAGLE.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Barbara Sama.

Facts About the USCG Cutter EAGLE

Obtained from the USCG Academy website

The USCGC *Eagle* is a 295-foot, three-masted barque used as a training vessel for future officers of the United States Coast Guard. Known as "America's Tall Ship," the majestic *Eagle* is the largest tall ship flying the Stars and Stripes and the only active square-rigger in U.S. government service.

Facts and Figures

- Length of *Eagle*: 295 ft. (roughly equivalent to a football field)
- Number of sails: 23
- Sail area: 22,227 square feet
- Tallest mast: 150 feet (roughly equivalent to a 15-story building)
- Length of rigging: 6 miles
- Working crew: 55
- Maximum people capacity: 239
- Weight: 1,655 tons (*Eagle's* hull and decks are made of steel)
- Speed under sail: 17 knots (20 mph)
- Speed under power: 10 knots (11 mph)
- Gallons of fuel oil: 24,215
- Weight of anchors: 3,860 lbs

History of Eagle

Built at the Blohm+Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany in 1936, and commissioned as Horst Wessel, *Eagle* was one of three sail-training ships operated by the pre-World War II German navy. At the close of the war, the ship was taken as a war reparation by the U.S., re-commissioned as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle* and sailed to New London, Connecticut, which has been her permanent homeport ever since.

Goodwill Eagle

USCGC *Eagle's* primary mission is training cadets and officer candidates, but the ship also performs a public relations role for the Coast Guard and America. *Eagle* welcomes the public to visit during domestic port calls, and makes calls at foreign ports as a floating goodwill ambassador for US diplomatic relations. *Eagle* has hosted Presidents Kennedy, Nixon and Truman.

Auxiliary Steam Locomotive Engineer?

By Linda Skvarla

The Coast Guard Auxiliary's Skills Bank is a resource database and search tool for locating Auxiliarists who possess specific skill sets, and one of our members has just acquired a very unique competency.

Joseph Giannattasio is a private pilot and licensed captain, and he serves the Coast Guard Auxiliary in many capacities, most notably as a pilot and coxswain. And in November he added a new talent to his varied skillsets: Steam Locomotive Engineer.

Leading up to this accomplishment, Joe had to read hundreds of pages of manuals for the correspondence course sections of the certification, culminating with a written test and practical review. Classes included fireman school, which must be completed before moving onto engineer school, to learn how much coal, air and water to add to make steam, watch the shade of the smoke rising from the stack, feel the quality of



Joe Giannattasio at the controls of a 2-8-2 steam locomotive.

Photo by Linda Skvarla



An Auxiliary Mobile Radio Unit caboose? Why not!

Photo by Linda Skvarla

the steam and then harness that power to drive the locomotive forward. Engineer (driver) instruction included how to drive the engine, as well as the mechanical operation of the train, train speed, braking, and all train handling.

"Learning how to drive a large steam locomotive was one of the things on my 'must do' list," said Joe. "This year marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Transcontinental Railroad and it seemed like a good time to try my hand at learning how to operate a steam train.

Once revolutionary, the steam locomotive is now the epitome of old-fashioned technology ... and Fun. When asked how this talent can be utilized for the Auxiliary, Joe already had an idea, "I know where I can get a vintage caboose, not only would it be a nice attraction for my ice cream stand and mini golf business, it would also make a perfect Auxiliary Land Based Radio Unit!"

Continued on the next page...

Auxiliary Steam Locomotive Engineer?

continued



So what else is on Joe's "must do" list? Learning to sail a submarine! "I'd really like to get a submersible endorsement on my Captain's License and I might know where I can find a neat homebuilt two-passenger submarine."

A 2-8-2 steam locomotive 'underway'.

Photo by Linda Skvarla

NORTHFIELD, NJ – In 2005 Joseph Giannattasio D5NR VE conducts a vessel check for the builder of a homebuilt two-passenger submarine. Named RV Needlefish (RV for Research Vessel) the 33ft. vessel is styled after a WWII Class VII submarine, powered by two 20hp diesel/electric motors and capable of cruising up to 4 hours underwater to a depth of 150 ft.

Photo by Linda Skvarla



Division 12 COW
Photographs by Al Grimminger



Flotilla 82 Chili Cook-off, Nov. 21, 2019

Photographs by Marty Sannino



CG AUX Honoring Veterans

On behalf of your EXCOM and all of the members of District 5NR, I want to congratulate Auxiliarists Nanette La Corte and Mike Hamilton on their appearance on PHL 17 on June 11, 2019 in honor of our veterans.

They were both great and brought honor to our veterans and visibility to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Thank you for your work in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and on the Battleship New Jersey.

This link shows the broadcast: [Several Events Planned For Veterans Day](#). Thanks again!

Thomas J. Dever, District Commodore



Screenshots from the aforementioned program.



*Taken by Timothy Marks
DSO-PB*

Congress Recognizes USCG Auxiliary For Its Contributions



At the ceremony that included U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew presenting the proclamation to Division 8 are, from left, District 5th Northern Chief of Staff Joseph Giannattasio; District 5th Northern Commodore Thomas J. Dever; District 5th Northern Division 8 Commander James E. Hans; and Van Drew.

KELLEY A. HANS-CASSIDY & MARILYN HUGHES / SUBMITTED

**SUBMITTED
BY JAMES E. HANS**
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

UPPER TOWNSHIP — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary held its annual Division 8 Change of Watch

Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Tuckahoe Inn in Marmora.

Division 8 comprises seven flotillas representing over 450 volunteer auxiliaries throughout Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties.

On hand at this year's Change of

Watch Ceremony was U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew, D-2nd, who presented the division with a congressional proclamation recognizing Division 8 auxiliaries for their contribution to the citizens of New Jersey and the United States of America.



Congress Recognizes USCG Auxiliary For Its Contributions, Continued

United States House of Representatives



Proclamation

Congressman Dr. Jefferson Van Drew

CONGRESSIONAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Congressman Jefferson Van Drew, as the duly elected representative of New Jersey's Second Congressional District is pleased to honor and commend

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8

Upon the Occasion of Their
Annual Change of Watch Ceremony

WHEREAS, the strength and success of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America rest upon the abilities and talents of our dedicated citizens that show exceptional efforts to promote and improve our community; and,

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the Second Congressional District, through their elected representative, recognize United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8 as an inspiration to all and whose energy and achievements help us glimpse a future of hope and promise; and,

WHEREAS, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8 has brought honor and pride to the community and to the citizens of this state, New Jersey, and the United States of America; therefore,

Be it known to all that the undersigned hereby honor:

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 8

Recorded This Day
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

And extends best wishes for continued happiness and success in the future



A handwritten signature of Congressman Jefferson Van Drew in black ink.

Congressman Jefferson Van Drew

Photographs from 5NR





DELAWARE RIVER - A Coast Guard Officer Candidate looks through a pelorus aboard the Coast Guard cutter Eagle transiting the Delaware River as a Coast Guard Auxiliary 41-foot Utility Boat from District Fifth Northern provides escort.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio



GREAT EGG HARBOR BAY, NJ - "SilverSky"
A Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 08 vessel underway against sunset.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary B&W photo
by Joseph Giannattasio.*



CAPE MAY, NJ - Local men who successfully completed the "Boating Education" course offered by the Cape May Flotilla receive their certificate of completion. Pictured (Left to Right); Howard Sreder, William Matthews, CDR Desses (RET) USCG, Immediate-Past Flotilla Commander LCDR Donald W. Lear USCG, Les Bartkowiak, Jack Foy.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo from
Flotilla 82 5NR archives.*



CAPE MAY, NJ - On March 14, 1944 the Cape May Flotilla inaugurated a class on "Piloting and Seamanship" for youths 13 to 17 years of age. Thirty-two teenage boys from the area participated in the class. This class was the first documented boating skills class to be held in District 5NR. Pictured (left to right) are Donald Plowman and Carroll Brown receiving their certificate of completion from LT Earl Huston USCG and Cape May Flotilla Commander ENS Donald W. Lear USCG on September 9, 1944.

Official U.S. Navy Photograph from Flotilla 82 5NR Archives



CAPE MAY, NJ - A Coast Guard HO3S helicopter lowers a rescue swimmer as a Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel (in background) and a Coast Guard DUKW amphibious boat looks on during 5NR's first DCON (District Convention) hosted by Division 8 on August 4, 1949.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo
from Division 08 archives*



A BRAVO ZULU to our own AUXLO, LTJG Stowe for his award on his contributions to the 20 ton cocaine bust this summer!

From the Coast Guard Auxiliary website: Coast Guard units may designate an active duty Coast Guard member to serve as the AUXLO (Auxiliary Liaison Office) between the command and local Auxiliary units in order to facilitate and coordinate mutual support. The AUXLO should serve as the unit's counterpart to, and in close coordination with, the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC).

Sector Delaware Bay Open House

Photographs taken by Paul Casalese



Sector Delaware Bay Open House, cont.

Photographs taken by Paul Casalese



A Message from the Editor

Happy December 5NR,

With 2019 being the 80th anniversary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, I wanted to include some history in this issue. Hopefully you have enjoyed seeing and reading some of this. I particularly notice how far things have come when comparing the 1965 recruiting poster on the cover to the 2019 recruiting poster that is included in COMO Dever's message on page 4. My plan is to include some additional history in each issue going forward.

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving time with family and friends. It is also my hope that each of you has a nice upcoming holiday season.

Take care.

Semper Paratus,
Tim Marks
DSO-PB

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

CAPE MAY HARBOR, NJ - Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary boat crews spend the 2019 Memorial Day weekend conducting training and patrols to ensure recreational boaters enjoy a safe holiday on the water. Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Joseph Giannattasio.

