

Fall 2021

Volume 79, Issue 4

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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



topside

Quiz time:
Why is this
fisherman not
safe?....

Safety is important, even in a small pond.

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Leadership of 5NR

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)
CDR (SEL) Victoria Taylor-Davies

Operations Training Officer (OTO)
CWO4 Douglas Schubert

District Commodore (DCO)
COMO Joseph J. Giannattasio

District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)
Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)
Cindi C. Chaimowitz

District Captain East (DCAPT-E)
James Hans

District Captain West (DCAPT-W)
Doug Willwerth

Immediate Past Commodore
COMO Thomas J. Dever

President Past Captains Association
Alfred O. Grimminger

Division Commanders

DCDR 01 David J. Clendening
DCDR 04 Scott G. Graham
DCDR 07 Thomas Johnston Don
DCDR 08 Robert N. Babezki
DCDR 12 Timothy D. Precht
DCDR 15 Ivan Meixell
DCDR 16 Terry F. Bearce
DCDR 17 Charles Lorentz Jr.
DCDR 18 Paul Whitman Sr.
DCDR 19 Richard B. Taylor, II
DCDR 20 COMO KC Murphy
DCDR 21 Michael B. McElwee

D-AD Jason C. Flynn, Donald W. Merrill

D-AA Phil Walmsley

DSO-C Jason C. Flynn

DSO-C COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown

DSO-DV Ruth A. Bearce

DSO-FN COMO Robert J. Perrone, Sr.

DSO-LP Francis P. Bigley

DSO-SL Harry W. Otto

DFSO Thomas Callahan III

DDC-Logistics Robert G. Vanderhook

DSO-CS Richard Taylor, II

DSO-FS Noreen Schifini

DSO-HR Steven G. Trojanov

DSO-IS COMO Jan Robert Munroe

DSO-MA Jeffery Wilt

DSO-PB Timothy P Marks

DSO-SR Noreen Schifini

DDC-Prevention Alfred O. Grimminger

DSO-AS Shane Jones

DSO-MS Gregg R. Bollinger

DSO-MT Theodore R. Hall

DSO-NS Frank J. Williams

DSO-PA COMO Kevin C. Murphy

DSO-PE Pamela L. Thompson

DSO-PV Russell M. Galson

DSO-VE Edwin W. Seda

DDC-Response Douglas L. Smith

DSO-IM Gregory M. Stough

DSO-CM Richard F. Lord

DSO-AV William A. Fithian

DSO-OP Donald W. Merrill

Front Cover: Becks Pond, DE; Safety is important even in a small pond. Why this fisherman is not safe? Can you identify his mistakes? See page 40 for details.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Barbara Sama

From the Desk of the Commodore

The Day the Live DTRAINs Return

I don't know when it will be safe to 'get underway' with face-to-face district conferences. But we will do it again, because we have to.

By COMO Joe Giannattasio

Where were you planning to be on the August 20th weekend this year? An extended family gathering? Or maybe at a flotilla or division picnic with a bunch of your fellow Shipmates? Better yet, attending a major or minor league baseball game in a stadium of like-minded fans enjoying America's National Pastime.

I know exactly where I was supposed to be: Coast Guard Auxiliary National Convention (NACON) in Orlando FL., with our Chief of Staff and roughly 400 of the Auxiliary's district and national leaders, Coast Guard and International guests and dignitaries, elected and appointed members for training sessions, and a whole bunch of interested members who look forward to attending the week-long event of training events, meetings, presentations, speakers, ceremonies, fellowship and fun.

Well, things have changed.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has reduced today's in-person Auxiliary conferences and gatherings to unflattering little windows that look like doorbell security footage and sound like a vintage vacuum-tube radio's distorted transmissions, such low magnitude and compressed. It's enough to make A.M. radio seem hi-fidelic. Don't get me wrong, I can deal with the monotony and limited cuisine of social distancing (my Spanish Seafood Paella is on point!), and I know that those of us who aren't school teachers or don't have to work in hospitals are the lucky ones, but still, I'm yearning for a crowded, energetic, Smurf-blue, eclectic, *live* Auxiliary gathering, ASAP. The kind that makes your face smile, your body stand up straighter, and your soul stir with pride.

Continued on the next page...



Commodore Joseph Giannattasio
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

There is nothing like the energy and atmosphere of live DTRAINS. It is the most Auxiliary-affirming experience; meeting national and district Auxiliary leaders, chatting with Coast Guard active duty; to see your friends, EX-COM, DIRAUX staff, and shipmates - in the flesh, rather than as a one-dimensional image glowing on your table as you spiral down a virtual meeting wormhole. The opportunity of training, dining, and socializing together; active duty Coasties and our most senior Auxiliary leaders become human in person. It was DTRAIN's personal connection with members that transformed those hotel conference centers into a Team Coast Guard festival.

As a two-decade conference goer, I know this feeling well. I myself have been pressed taking closed-book exams and practical tests. I have been motivated by amazing instructors and mentors, and inspired by interesting Auxiliary presenters and Coast Guard speakers. I have felt the accomplishment of receiving awards, and the honor of presenting commendations to deserving members. I have purchased my uniform items at the district store, participated in many "Friday Fun Nites", and engaged in stimulating conversation during meals and social mixers with members I may never see again. All to celebrate and share the tangible, communal power of our district conferences. Without question, the training we receive, the connections we make, the information that we share, the relationships that we strengthen, and the camaraderie and fellowship that we enjoy at DTRAINS contribute immeasurably to our being ready, resourceful, relevant, and resilient.

In today's world of fear, unease, and social distancing, it's hard to imagine attending conferences like these ever again. I don't know when it will be safe to return to face-to-face meetings and training, indulging in group conversation, dining together, or enjoying in-person ceremonies and fellowship. But I do know that we will do it again, because we have to. It's not a choice. We're Auxiliarists. We need gatherings like DTRAIN that reassure us that we are not alone. That we are relevant. That we are ready. And, most important, reinforce that we are indeed a Team. And I also know that we can surely get through this together.

As the 2021 Surface Patrol Season ends, I am taking this opportunity to thank you - Boat Crew, Coxswains, Qualification Examiners and appointed Operations Staff Officers for all you have done during this very challenging year for surface operations. Many of you 'Sailored-Up' and made patrols happen regardless of the particular setbacks we faced this year: COVID mitigations, multi-problem transition to AUXDATA II, CG Finance revisions of patrol orders, and loss of surface facilities. You have demonstrated that the Auxiliary is resilient and adaptable to changing dynamics.

Since 1939 the Coast Guard Auxiliary has had, and will continue to have, a myriad of ever-evolving missions that includes our ultimate responsibility to promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety as well as provide the Coast Guard with high quality operational, administrative, and logistical support.

Shipmates, you have my commitment that I will strive to work with you and lead in a way worthy of our mission, your respect, and the sacrifices that so many of you have made and continue to make to serve the Coast Guard and keep us worthy of the public trust.

Thank you for your dedicated service and commitment to our nation, Semper Paratus!

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

As our district's 2021 Safe Boating Programs wind down, I am taking this opportunity to thank you - appointed Staff Officers for Vessel Examinations, Program Partner Visitation and Public Education for all you have done during this very challenging year for Auxiliary public interaction missions. You, and many of our safe boating program members, acted with determination to safely get the job done regardless of the particular setbacks we faced this year: COVID mitigations and multi-problem transition to AUXDATA II. You have demonstrated that the Auxiliary is resilient and adaptable to changing dynamics.

A cornerstone since 1947, the Auxiliary's safe boating programs have continually evolved to serve as local area emissaries for the U.S. Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary in a recreational boating safety public outreach program.

Shipmates, you have my commitment that I will strive to work with you and lead in a way worthy of our mission, your respect, and the sacrifices that so many of you have made and continue to make to serve the Coast Guard and keep us worthy of the public trust.

Thank you for your dedicated service and commitment to our nation, Semper Paratus!



J. Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W

Greetings Shipmates!

It is hard to believe we are winding down the operational season of 2021. Thinking about where we were a year ago and even earlier this year, we didn't know what the future held for our participation in any programs due to the pandemic. Despite that, you stayed ahead of any concerns and made a contingency plan to train, just in case. Here we are now more than 6 months later, and look at what you have accomplished! The Western Area has had much success in operations and recruiting this year. Congratulations to everyone, despite the ongoing challenges, some of which still exist. I have said and acknowledged this before, we have some of the best and most resilient volunteers of any organization in the United States. While leadership provides direction, you have stepped up to the plate to show how the Flotilla members are the backbone of the Auxiliary and are able to get the job done!



J. Douglas Willwerth
District Captain—West
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

I am honored to be elected again to represent the Fifth Northern Western Area as your District Captain for another year in 2022. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Division leadership teams this year and appreciate the support and talent they represent. As a team, we have been able to accomplish great things by working together and maintaining good communication. When emailed to me, the Division and Flotilla newsletters are a pleasure to read, knowing the detail of what you do at the ground level, especially when that information isn't always conveyed through the COLM. This practice is truly encouraged and appreciated!

With the cold weather and snowflakes looming around the corner, let's continue to be diligent in maintaining our core training and start thinking about achievements and goals, formulating a plan for the year ahead. For members struggling with entering information into AUXDATA II, try and make it a goal to partner with another member to learn the system. Maybe your Flotilla can hold a training session to aid in the learning process. Your time and efforts should be documented to help the Coast Guard with funding, and also to assure recognition to those members providing any service to a mission or a program.

I would like to wish all of you a fantastic Thanksgiving holiday! Thank you for all that you do in the Auxiliary! Keep up the great work, and I will look forward to working with many of you in the upcoming year! Please share a special thank you and recognition to those significant others that help support us in all of our activities and missions.

Very Respectfully,

Douglas Willwerth
District Captain-Western Area
Fifth Northern District
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Cynthia C Chaimowitz , DCAPT-C

Hello from the Central Area! I am honored to be elected to a second term as one of your District representatives in the 5th Northern Region. Although 2021 has been a challenging year following the pandemic, we are starting to see some light at the end of a long tunnel. Now that I have completed my first year as D-Capt., let me tell you about the four Divisions in the Central area that I have had the pleasure of working with.

Division 1 serves the Northern area in Delaware between three flotillas. Among these members are seven Coxswains, eleven Boat Crew, nine Vessel Examiners, two RBS Visitors, five Instructors, one Air Crew, one Aid to Navigation Verifier and one Aux PA Specialist (AUXPA1). They have a total of 63 members. With dwindling and maturing membership two of the three flotillas have sixteen members or less. The other flotilla has thirty-four with only a few active members that hold several positions. We are advancing.

Division 4 serves the Southeastern Pennsylvania area from the Schuylkill River to the PA/DE state line with seven Flotillas. Division 4 has a total of 202 members which comprise of seven Coxswain, thirteen crew, twenty eight Vessel Examiners, eighteen Program Visitors, twenty Instructors and two Aid to Navigation Verifiers.

Recently, I had the pleasure of accompanying Division 4 to Fort Delaware and Pea Patch Island for a day of face to face fellowship. It was amazing. Still, we move forward!

Division 12 serves the Southern area in Delaware from Dover to Bethany Beach. They have a total of 117 members within five flotillas. Among these members are three Coxswain, eleven Boat Crew, thirty-three Vessel Examiners, twenty RBS Visitors, twenty-seven Instructors, eight ATON Verifiers, six Culinary Assistant's, fifteen Watchstanders and there are some that will go into REYR at the end of the year. On a positive note, we are interviewing a member that has been active for over sixty one years, yes (61). I don't want to ruin the story, you'll just have to wait. Still, we move onward!

Division 17 serves the Trenton, NJ area along the Delaware River to just north of Philadelphia, PA. It also runs upriver to the state borders of PA and NJ with four active flotillas. These members also have four Coxswain, ten Boat crew, nine TCO, five ATON verifiers, thirty Vessel Examiners, 7 RBS Visitors, fourteen Instructors, one Culinary Assistant and one PA Specialist. Some will go into REYR at the end of the year as well.

We continue frontward!

These Divisions are all run by great DCDR's who make my job more manageable! Thank you for all you do. Looking forward to an inspiring 2022.



**Cynthia Chaimowitz
District Captain—Central
Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region**

James E. Hans, DCAPT-E

Season's Greetings

As I begin to wind down my tenure as District Captain East, I would like to offer a few quick remarks and personal sentiments. First and foremost, it has been the honor of a lifetime to have had the opportunity to both serve as District Captain, as well as, working alongside an extraordinary array of volunteers throughout District East and 5th Northern.

The diversity of our auxiliary membership is without equal. As a nation, nothing could have prepared us for the unprecedented challenges during a world-wide pandemic. But resilience, determination and dedication by our members, to fulfilling our mission is a reflection of their extraordinary and diverse talents. The pandemic has challenged us all on a myriad of levels. Yet the diverse skillsets of our membership, rallied together, with one purpose, one objective and one goal. To make our auxiliary stronger than before.

Success for any organization (particularly on the volunteer level) must begin with solid, yet grounded and responsible leadership. Within the auxiliary that leadership starts at the Flotilla Level. During the last 18 months, throughout District East, our Flotilla Commanders and Vice Commanders have all performed to the truest sense “with Grace under fire”. It is by their example of leadership that our Auxiliary remains strong and viable. It is for this reason, I would ask all of you to look within yourselves, and recognize that in your own unique way, you all have leadership qualities. Diverse and unique talents that you can bring to the leadership level. The future of our auxiliary starts with tomorrow's future leaders. The personal growth and the unmatched satisfaction of giving and sharing your talents is a gift that will continue to impact the sustained success of the auxiliary for years to come.

As for me personally, my last 10 years in the Auxiliary can be defined as nothing short of incredible. Not because of specific missions, duties, or personal accomplishments, but because of the people. Now at 60, these last ten years represent 1/6th of my entire life. Never before have I felt the friendship, the fellowship and the camaraderie that the Auxiliary has provided for me over this decade.

Every one of you have the unique ability to leave a lasting thumb print on something greater than yourself. Your opportunity to step up and leave that thumb print begins now. As we close out this calendar year, there is much to be thankful for across our District. Although Covid has been devastating, most of our members have been spared the heart-braking effects of this virus. For those facing continued Covid challenges, you remain in my prayers.

And finally, over the last 10 years my family has been gracious enough to let me share much of my free time with the auxiliary. So, for a little while, I have a little make up time duty with my ever-increasing family and enjoying my new title of “Pop Pop”. This isn't good bye. Our District Commodore won't allow me to change my cell number or email address. I'll just spend a little more time peaking in on all of you over the horizon, instead watching the waves crash in over my head.

God Bless all of you during this Holiday Season, and wish you Continued Good Health and Happiness in 2022.

Jim Hans

District Captain East



James E. Hans
District Captain—East
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

A Focus on 5NR Departments



Aviation

Auxiliarist Explores the Jet in the Woods

by William "Bill" Fithian, DSO-AV Auxiliary District 5NR

Nothing quite captures the imagination than discovering the ruins of a lost military jet fighter. Recently COMO Joe Giannattasio discovered just such an aircraft hidden away in the wilds of Passaic County, NJ, seemingly just left behind and forgotten in the hilly northernmost part of the state.

When he was attending university in northern New Jersey, Giannattasio took introductory flight instruction at a nearby airport and recalled local pilots telling stories of a military jet that crashed in the heavy forest area of the region long ago.

Now a co-pilot in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Fifth Northern's Air Program and an avid aviation enthusiast, Giannattasio set out with a fellow adventurer in October to find the lost jet fighter. Far from the closest town and a long hike from the nearest road they bushwhacked through thick foliage and swampy mud until they found the skeletal remains of a Marine Lockheed T2V-1 Seastar where it still exists today, nestled in a remote and marshy patch of the West Milford forest.



William "Bill" Fithian
District Staff Officer - AV



Remains of the crashed military jet in the Passaic County forest

Photograph by COMO Joe Giannattasio

The aircraft was a carrier-capable jet trainer for the United States Navy that entered service in 1957 and powered by a single jet engine. According to newspaper articles from the period, in 1967 while flying a training mission out of Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field the jet had a flame out and plunged. Amazingly, despite the ejection system failing, both pilots survived the crash and were found standing near the wreckage by the first responders on scene.

Continued on the next page...

Aviation, continued

Somehow the plane remained largely intact from the crash and the military later airlifted the engine out for salvage but left the rest of the plane behind. There is now less of the plane remaining; yet it endures as a captivating mystery, silently falling apart and forgotten.



Remains of the crashed military jet in the Passaic County forest

Photograph by COMO Joe Giannattasio



Period Photograph of a Navy Lockheed T2V-1 Seastar

District Historian Seeking Help

The District Historian, Steve Marthouse, is looking for old Topside Magazines from the 1940's thru 1961.

We are currently digitizing these old magazines and making them available for researching on the 5NR website. It is a great way to look back to understand the roots of the Auxiliary.

If anyone or any Flotilla or Division has access to either "Sea Bag" or "Topside" magazines, please contact the District Historian - sjmarthouse@gmail.com

Marine Safety

Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credentialing Policy Changes

Any crew member working on a commercial ship or yacht, needs STCW or “Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping.” STCW was conceived in 1978 and has been in force since April 1984. The IMO or International Maritime Organization worldwide, and the U.S. Coast Guard, nationally, oversee the STCW. In 2010, the so-called “Manila Amendments” were adopted due to increased security awareness and development of new technologies.

Change 1 to Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credentialing (CG-MMC) Letter 02-18, establishes guidelines for qualification of personnel seeking STCW. Endorsements for Basic and Advanced Polar Code Operations and Change 1 to CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-21 are included in the revised Guidelines for Qualifying for the SCTW.

Any crew member working on a commercial ship or yacht, needs the STCW so this affects a large number of individuals worldwide. Another aspect of the changes is the publication by the Coast Guard of Basic and Advanced IGF or Low-Flashpoint Fuels Code Operations.

A discussion of the requirements for renewal of the Basic and Advanced Polar Code Operations endorsements along with removal of transitional provisions that expired on 01 JUL 2020 are at the heart of the Coast Guard Change 1.

A method to renew endorsement of qualified instructors of the Basic or Advanced IGF (Low Flashpoint Fuels Code) Operations course was introduced by Change 1 to CG-MMC Policy Letter. Additionally, the change reduces the seagoing service requirements for renewal of the STCW for Basic and Advanced IGF Code Operations.

More information may be obtained by getting in touch with the Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division at MMCPolicy@USCG.mil or by phoning 202-372-2357.

Information for this article was drawn from *Professional Mariner Magazine* and sevenseasprop.com.



***Gregg Bollinger
DSO
Marine Safety***

Gregg R. Bollinger, Th.D.
DSO-MS, D 5 NR

Information Systems

AUXDATA II Needs YOU!

By Harry Dyer, DVC-UM, ADSO-IS

AUXDATA II the “Auxiliary’s Information System of Record,” depends on you to record your missions/activities in a timely manner. Without your input, it cannot provide the statistics that are required to provide funding, from the Coast Guard, for Auxiliary activities and cannot provide the proper statistics required for reporting Auxiliary activities. Your skills, and occupation are also a very important part of your personal information in your member record. Today, more than ever, the Coast Guard depends on Auxiliary members to augment its services in many diverse areas. Currently, the focus on diversity is not about gender, ethnicity, religion, etc., but on personal skills. In 5NR, many members provide important assistance to the Coast Guard in many different areas and if your skills are recorded in your member record, that will assist the Coast Guard in contacting you for help when needed.

It is also important for you to record your missions with the correct Mission Code that corresponds with your Summary of Activities. The combination of the two is then verified by your Information Services Officer. Although all “99” mission codes are “lumped” together for budget purposes, by the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary keeps them separate for reporting statistics. Also, your Miles and Costs for non-reimbursable expenses, reported under “99” entries, along with all of the other Mission Codes, are important as they are included when the Coast Guard prepares their budget for the Auxiliary.

Reporting/entering your missions/activities in AUXDATA II is a simple process after you have done it a few times. If you have not previously accessed AUXDATA II, the URL/link is <https://uscg.force.com/auxcommunity/s/>. Next, click on “Forgot Your Password?” and enter your Username, e.g. your seven-digit Member ID followed by @uscg.aux (1234567@uscg.aux) and click on “Continue.” You will receive a very long URL/link. Click that on that link and follow the instructions.

Excellent instructions for entering your information in AUXDATA II, are posted on the National website - www.cgaux.org. On the left side of the home page screen, click on AUXdata II. You will see “AUXDATA II ANNOUNCEMENTS” that includes the “Two Factor Authentication (2FA)” that is required to access AUXDATA II. Next, click on “Member How To.” There you will see “AUXDATA II How To Guides and Instructions for Members” that includes information about 20 different AUXDATA II subjects, plus information about using AUXDATA II. If you are not familiar with AUXDATA II terminology and features, check out “How to Understand the Basics of AUXDATA II,” it should alleviate any anxiety that you may have,

**And always remember –
“Communication – the thread
that binds and keeps an
organization from unraveling at
the seams.” AUXDATA II is an
important tool for
communicating information and
it NEEDS YOU!**



Help Wanted

For additional requests see:

<https://5nr.org/auxiliarists-help-wanted/>



AUX SUPPORT REQUEST – Thanksgiving Dinner

1. Description of Duties:

Culinary Assistant – Cook dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25, 2021 for Sector Delaware Bay Coast Guard personnel that are standing watch. Meal will be completed by 1400, feeding approximately 25 members.

2. Skillset Needed:

Be a qualified Auxiliary Culinary Assistant.

3. Timeline Needed:

Thursday, November 25 Arrive at Sector Delaware Bay at 0700. Meal to be completed by 1400 for approximately 25 members.

4. Point of Contact:

Please contact/email if interested in volunteering:

Chief R. Snyder

215-271-4822-office

609-224-9623-cell

Roy.A.Snyder@uscg.mil

Please copy D05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil

5. Number of Aux needed:

Five

6. Location:

Sector Delaware Bay, 1 Washington Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19147



Information from Around the District



Upcoming 5NR Events

Taken from the calendar on the 5NR Website created by Linda Skvarla, ADSO-PB

For more detail go to the 5NR website and view the calendar

<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=053&category=CALENDAR>

District 5NR Calendar						
5th Northern District						
Today	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	7:30 PM EXCOM All disenrollm DAYLIGHT SA Division Auxil WINTER LINE	DIV 16			DIV 7	
7						
		DIV 15, 17, 2	DIV 8	DIV 19		
14	DIV 18	DIV 4	DIV 1			
21				DIV 12		
28	Hanukkah be			DIV 7 Division Auxil		

District 5NR Calendar						
5th Northern District						
Today	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28					DIV 7 Division Auxil	
5	Hanukkah end 7:30pm EXCOM	DIV 16		DIV 19		
12		DIV 15, 17, 2	DIV 1	Certification c		
19	DIV 18 FIRST DAY OF	DIV 4		DIV 12		
26					Data Entry 20	Jan 1



Division 19 and Multiple National Night Out Events

By Rick Young, PA1, SO-PA

“When Flotilla 19-05 was first invited to participate in Lower Windsor Township’s event for National Night Out it seemed like a natural thing for a Division 19 event,” explained Dave Blechertas, flotilla commander for 19-05.

The immediate reaction was that since Station Long Level on the Susquehanna River is located in Lower Windsor Township our participation at that event seemed obvious. At the July division meeting Flotillas 19-01, 19-04 and 19-05 all announced their intent to participate. However, within days Flotilla 19-01 elected to join with 19-02 at Goldsboro and Flotilla 19-04 was invited to a similar event at Manor Township in Lancaster County. Soon the problem became one of balancing staffing to assure good coverage. The solution was for Gregg Bollinger, Ed Seda and Jeff Wilt from 19-04 to attend the Manor Township event and Rick Young would work with Dave Blechertas and Jeff Kuhn from 19-05 at Lower Windsor Township. Flotillas 19-01 and 19-02 had already agreed to work together.

Among the three locations, in addition to the Auxiliary, representation was variously from the local police, county sheriff, multiple fire companies, EMTs, River Rescue, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and K-9 Volunteer Rescue. All of the events were well very attended by both adults and children. Lots of boating safety literature was distributed, but coloring books for the children was a popular attraction. It was also a perfect opportunity to engage members of the community and articulate the Auxiliary’s key mission in recreational boating safety by promoting our courtesy vessel examinations and public education as well as marine safety and environmental protection. At the end of the evening the various event organizers were duly pleased with the Auxiliary’s presence and as a division we are enthusiastic to say that we have already been invited back for next year.

National Night Out, began in 1984 as an outgrowth of several small events in southeastern Pennsylvania, now involves nearly 40 million people in 16,000 communities nationwide. From its origin of just having folks sit on their front porch and having their light on, it has evolved into numerous widespread major community events where residents can mingle with personnel from fire, police, emergency services and others.

In short, all it took was that one invitation to have an entire division participate in a major public affairs event but to also lay the groundwork for a return engagement next year—the lesson is to never leave any stone unturned! To quote Division 19 VCDR Ed Seda, “This was a great event for getting the Auxiliary’s presence better known in the community.”

Continued on the next page...

National Night Out Events, Continued



Photos clockwise from top left: Ed Seda and Jeff Wilt (photo by Gregg Bollinger); Dave Blechertas, Jeff Kuhn, and Rick Young (photo by unknown using Dave Blechertas's phone); Mel Collins, Bob Houser, Lorraine Houser, and Keith Cavanagh (photo by unknown using Mel Collins's iPhone); and Gregg Bollinger performs a final check on completeness of the display (photo by Ed Seda)

Topside Puzzlers

1. In Sunray Beach, NJ there's this unusual little bar for Auxiliarists, where you can get a free beer if you know the secret code. The secret code works like this: you sit down at the bar. The bartender tells you a number. And you tell him another number. If it's right, you get a free beer.

For example, a member goes up to the bar and the bartender says, "six." The member says, "three," and he gets his free beer.

The second member goes up to the bar, and the bartender says, "twelve." The member says, "six," and she gets his free beer!

A third member sits at the bar, and the bartender says, "fourteen." The member says, "eight." They get a free beer.

You're sitting there. The bartender turns to you and says, "twenty-two."
What do you say?

2. While doing a QE check, I visited a Coxswain in Division 08. She said, "There's a section of the ICW that runs directly north and south." I said, "Yeah? Show me."
The Coxswain says, "I can put my boat on this section of the ICW and point it north, and make-way for a quarter-mile and when I'm done, I'm a quarter-mile south of where I started."

The question is very simple: How's she doing it?

Answers:

1. If you were the customer and said nine, you'd get a free beer. That's how many letters there are in "twenty-two."
2. How does she do it? She puts the boat in reverse and makes-way.

The TOPSIDE Newsletter

Archive is Now Online

By **COMO Joseph Giannattasio**

Coast Guard Auxiliary District Fifth-Northern (D5NR) is proud to introduce their newsletter TOPSIDE's online archive for all Auxiliarists, Active Duty and the public at-large to enjoy on the D5NR website at <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. TOPSIDE is the official newsletter of Auxiliary District Fifth-Northern. Launched in March 1943, it is the oldest continuously published Auxiliary newsletter in the U.S. The TOPSIDE online bibliotheca contains the most complete collection of TOPSIDE from March 1943 to present.

The second half of the twentieth century bore witness to the revolutionary development of the Coast Guard's volunteer organization that shaped the Auxiliary as it is today. Containing over 92 issues and more than 1,400 articles, the TOPSIDE online archive offers readers amazing insight into the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard throughout this period. Online users can search through every digital issue of TOPSIDE back to March 1943.

The district's Historian, Steve Marthouse, assembled a dedicated multi-disciplined team of members to find a cost-effective means to insure the preservation of the collection of old TOPSIDE newsletters. Soliciting help from an educational institution, the team - Melvin Borofsky, COMO Joe Giannattasio, Tim Marks, Linda Skvarla, Rick Taylor and Mark Wirtz digitally scanned each issue and uploaded them onto a section in the district's website where they could be stored and accessed.

TOPSIDE's online archive reveals a wealth of treasure from the Auxiliary's history. Gems include a 1944 article chronicling the Auxiliary's response to the "Great Atlantic Hurricane" of September that year, the golden 50-year anniversary fall 1989 issue featuring the "History, 5th (Northern Region) Coast Guard Auxiliary," and policy pieces including the 2003 essay about the Auxiliary being the only volunteer organization to be included in the newly created Department of Homeland Security.

The TOPSIDE archive is an integrated part of the Auxiliary District Fifth-Northern website. All users can browse and download issues in the online archive via <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. Users can browse by year and issue.



Aux Spotlight - Barbara Sama

By Christopher Orlando, ADSO-PB



Behind the camera, you will often find an artist. This is the case with award winning photographer, AUX Barbara Sama, AUXPA1. “My role/ desire is to bring information via photos to the outside world. The old saying. ‘A picture is worth a thousand words’ is so spot on! People gravitate to a photo first when they see a magazine or newspaper. This is my intention: to get that photo in hopes of getting people interested in our organization,” said Sama.

Sama has been with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for five years, earning her Public Affairs Specialist 3 within 8 months of joining and kept moving up before reaching her Public Affairs Specialist 1 in 2021. In addition to Public Affairs, Sama is also involved in Boat Crew, Instructor, and Vessel Examiner.

“Public Affairs has various parts that interact with the public. I chose the camera’s ability to express our organization because of its ability to capture the moment. No words can capture the ‘joy’ of a successful mission (ex:MOM patrol) or “perseverance” of a rescue like a photo,” said Sama.

Sama has also won the National Photo Contest award multiple times. “I was at the Florida NACON when I heard my name called in one of the categories. No one in my group was surprised except me with my mouth wide open and they laughed and smiled at me,” said Sama. “Taking photos of members in their activities. It never gets old. The Hope is that one of these photos will end up in a magazine, newspaper or online topic. It makes me very happy to see them being used and bring stories to life!”

District Commodore Joe Giannattasio, AUXPA 1 served as a mentor to Sama. “In a few short years, Barbara Sama went from being a civilian who ‘took snapshots’ to an award winning Coast Guard Auxiliary photographer.”

Giannattasio continued, “Barbara’s determination and her immersion in the Auxiliary’s Public Affairs Specialty courses and qualifications has led her to become an outstanding photographer who has been sent on numerous photography assignments throughout the country for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.”

Sama is incredibly thankful for the support she has received and is able to provide to Sector Delaware Bay. “It [Public Affairs] takes you to many places. I have met so many Guardsmen/women/Auxiliarists from all over! I have had the honor and privilege to help Delaware Sector Bay in many ways from photographing their functions, portraits and upcoming events in the area.”

Activities of Flotilla 16-7

Information taken from the September issue of The Binnacle (16-7 Newsletter)

Editor: Betsy Bauer. All photos taken before 10/1/21

Thanks to the hospitality of member Ron Coleman, our flotilla was again able to congregate in a lovely waterfront setting. On August 18, 2021, our meeting was preceded by subs, homemade delectables and the beverages. Highlights, presented by acting FC John Fisher, were the VE Examiner & Program Visitor Certifications, awarded to Hugh Mehorter. Additionally, Chris Orlando was awarded his Instructor Certificate, adding to our pool of certified instructors. Emphasis was once again aimed at the need for instructors and aides. Public Education is an extremely important mission of the Auxiliary.



Our OPs crew members were able to put in patrol hours. Thanks goes out to facility owners. However, there was only one vessel available for most of the season - John Fisher's. John, our acting FC, graciously provided his beautiful Grady White - a 30 ft seaworthy vessel that comfortably accommodates 5 to 6 crew members. The weekend of August 28th & 29th brought numerous challenges, all well handled by the crew of 6 on the 28th. Included were John Fisher, John Ignozza (Betsy's QE for her 3 year check ride), Glenn Delmonico, Basil Iwanik, Betsy Bauer and Jim Picciano (Coxswain). The weekend was chilly and windy, with sustained winds blowing 22-25 mph on Saturday. Aside from Betsy's sign-off exercises, the ensemble handled towing, communications, docking, search patterns and general observation duties. Sunday calmed a bit, but still held steady winds over 15 mph. Both days provided great opportunity to hone our skills. Sunday's crew included Coxswain Jim Picciano, crew John Fisher, Ron Coleman, Ted Hall and Betsy Bauer.



USCG AUXILIARY DIVISION 15 SUPPORT AT WALLY LAKE FEST

August 27th and 28th 2021

By Northern Lakes Division 15 DCDR Ivan O. Meixell Jr.

- Wally Lake Fest is an annual end-of summer event that packs the best parts of a Pocono Mountains vacation into one epic weekend. It's three days of food, music, sports, shopping, tours, and activities for all ages. This two-day event highlighted the first time participation of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Northern Lakes Division 15 in an area where our presence could greatly enhance boater safety, education and recruiting.
- Marine Safety Information Booths were located indoors at the Visitors Center and outdoors at the Lake Wallenpaupack High School in Hawley, PA. Both information booths had informational tables for Boat and Marine Safety. The Marine Safety booth was manned by Kim Getz, Jim Johnson, Dave Bronson, Avo Zaytounian and VCDR Bob Vanderhook. They educated over one hundred seventy-three interested visitors who stopped by to learn some valuable tips on Marine Safety and recreational boat safety along with multiple interested visitors who took the various free informational material and pamphlets on display.
- Vessel Examinations were conducted both days at the Wilsonville Recreation Area and PPL Public Boat launch by DCDR Ivan Meixell, VCDR Bob Vanderhook and Jim Sheridan. More than 20 vessels were inspected. Wilsonville Recreation Area management was impressed by our presence and requested that we return next boating season to conduct boating safety classes, as well as conduct more vessel inspection at the Wilsonville Recreation Area and Lake Wallenpaupack.
- The Wally Fest committee for Division 15 consisted of, Chair Anthony V. Wojnar VFC, SO-PV/NS, Assistant Chair, Kimberly Getz, FSO-MS, SO-MS, Jim Sheridan SO-FN, Avo Zaytounian SO-PA, SO-IS, with direction from Division 15 DCDR Ivan Meixell. All the participants were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by DCDR Ivan Meixell.



WALLY LAKE FEST - AUGUST 28-29, 2021

"CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION"

DIVISION 15

L/R: Ivan O. Meixell, DCDR; Anthony Wojnar, VFC; Bill Durdon, SO-DV; David Hayward, FSO-CM; Kimberly Getz, SO-MS; Bob Vanderhook, VCDR; David Bronson, MBR; Ron McHale, FC; Avo E. Zaytounian, SO

USCG AUXILIARY DIVISION 15 SUPPORT AT WALLY LAKE FEST

Continued



Left: DCDR Meixell presenting Certificate of Appreciation to SO-NS/PV Anthony Wojnar – Committee Chairman

Right: Ivan O. Meixell, DCDR and Bob Vanderhook, VCDR;



L/R: Bob Vanderhook, VDCR; Kim Getz, SO-MS; David Bronson, MBR; Anthony Wojnar, VFC; Ron McHale, FC

- There were two Pollution Prevention trifold at both locations. On August 28th and 29th. Both locations educated 173 people were educated about Marine Safety and the time required for the pollution to dissolve into the ground and the harmful effects that discarded waste materials have on marine life.
- Various visual aids were utilized in the various displays to educate people on what occurs to marine wildlife if they do not dispose of pollution the proper way. Visual aids which were shown to the public visitors were: A dolphin with a six-pack holder around its nose. A sea turtle with fishing line around its neck and fins. Various sharks with fishing line around their different fins. A killer whale which had a balloon in its mouth showing that they think balloons are plankton which is one of the foods they eat. In addition, a dishpan with oil (1") containing various sea animals was displayed to show what happens when there is an oil spill.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Association (AuxA)

Did you know that purchases made in AuxA (uniform items, accessories, devices, etc.) results in rebates directly to the District to defray conference costs? Plus the prices are usually better than other sources! Please support the AuxA!

Coast Guard Auxiliary Association

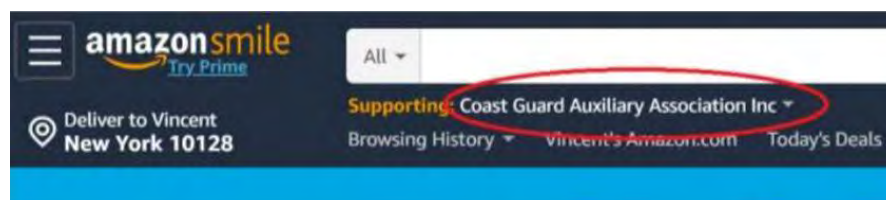


Ya Gotta Be In In To Win It!
AUXA SWEEPSTAKES
is back by request!
WIN a \$100 AuxA Gift Certificate!
It's easy. Just hit the link below.
We've already had one \$100 winner!

[CLICK HERE to watch the brief show about AUXA and enter your name to Win. That's it.](#)

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association provides the financial stability that the Coast Guard Auxiliary must have to ensure readiness to meet its mission.

REMEMBER: AMAZON SMILE WILL MAKE A DONATION TO AuxA FOR EVERY PURCHASE YOU MAKE.



(If it doesn't say "Coast Guard Auxiliary", you're missing an opportunity to support the RBS mission at zero-cost to you.)

Longtime Auxiliarist Retires

Auxiliarist Andy S. Assimos recently retired after 61 years. He joined 17 MAY 1960. Mr. Assimos was recently acknowledged by D5NR for 60 Years of Auxiliary Service (2020) when he received a plaque in May 2021. At that time, his flotilla commander, Lewis McCullough, contacted him and congratulated him on behalf of Flotilla 053-12-09. Below are some highlights of Andy's stellar career in the Auxiliary:

- a. Over 500 SAR cases
- b. 7 SAR cases in one day
- c. Tasked by Sector HQ to set-up the first Surface Ops Programs in Southern Delaware
 - USCG Boat Crew Qualified
 - Instrumental in breaking up a stolen boat crew ring from Pennsylvania
 - Former US Navy

Andy also has a brother, George Assimos (94 years old with 20 years plus in the Auxiliary). The two made a pact years ago...to retire from the Auxiliary together. George is currently attached to Flotilla 054-10-05 in North Carolina and recently decided to retire.

Lewis E. McCullough, FC

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. COAST GUARD ANSC 7035 (09-18)	U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS
SECTION I - To be completed by Flotilla Commander	
To: LAST NAME Assimos	FIRST NAME AND MIDDLE INITIAL Andrew N.
MEMBER ID [REDACTED]	
As provided in the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (Series), you will be recommended for disenrollment from the Auxiliary for non-payment of Financial Obligations for or since the year _____ amounting to \$ _____, unless the full amount is received by your Flotilla Commander within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. You will not be eligible to remain a member of this flotilla, transfer to another flotilla or seek Retired Member status, until your financial obligations are met.	
SECTION I - To be completed by Flotilla Commander	
_____ Flotilla Commander	_____ Date of Notice
SECTION II - To be completed by Member	
To: FLOTILLA <u>12-09</u> Date <u>08/13/21</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> An amount to pay my Financial Obligation is enclosed. I want to remain in Flotilla _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I desire Retired Member status. My date of enrollment is <u>5/17/1960</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I desire to transfer to Flotilla _____ in this district. (Complete MEMBER TRANSFER REQUEST, ANSC 7056, and attach to this form.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I desire to disenroll. My Reason(s) is/are _____ (Prioritize up to 3 reasons - high to low - use codes from Page 2 in boxes below. Explain "Other" on line above)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My membership card is enclosed. Member signature <u>Andrew N. Assimos</u>	
SECTION III - To be completed by Flotilla Commander	
To: DSO-HR <u>D5NR (D53)</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend disenrollment effective <u>21 SEP 2021</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> for Non-payment of Financial Obligations. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at Member's Request	

Uniform Changes Coming

Uniform Changes Summary:

1. 12/31/21 = The tucked ODU will no longer be an authorized uniform item. The only authorized ODU will be the untucked ODU.
2. 01/01/22 = The untucked ODU is now the only authorized ODU for Auxiliarists.
3. 12/31/21 = The Alternate Working Uniform (AWU) is authorized to be purchased and worn by all Auxiliarists. (Access Link below for details and more information.) An AWU procured by an Auxiliarist will be authorized to be worn until no longer serviceable.
 - 3.b. The Alternate Working Uniform (AWU) will provide more sizing availability, and will allow those members who opt not to follow some the grooming standards to remain active and valuable members of the Auxiliary.
4. 2024 = The new Coast Guard Work Uniform (CGU) will be made available to Auxiliarists during Fiscal Year 2024 when the untucked ODU will begin to be phased out, over two years.
 - 4.b. The new Coast Guard Work Uniform (CGU) will not be available in sizes that are larger than the sizes worn by the Active Duty; this means that the CGU may not be available to some of our members. (The Alternate Working Uniform [AWU] will provide more sizing availability, and may be worn instead of the CGU so they may remain active.)

The Coast Guard Working Uniform (CGU) is essentially the latest iteration of the CG Operational Dress Uniform (ODU). To the left is a photo of the CGU.



MARCH 2022 AWARD AND ORDER REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Hello AUXSOME Auxiliarists of District Five Northern. Just around the corner will be our 2022 Spring DTRAIN, in which I hope to see lots of awards recognizing your AUXSOME accomplishments.

My office is expected to be very shorthanded starting about the January/early February timeframe and I want to make sure you get recognized.

AWARDS:

Please follow the guidance and templates on the format of awards in our policy. If procedures/signatures for 1650(s) and the award(s) are not done correctly then it will be returned. If returned, it may not meet the below date deadlines and not given at the DTRAIN event. Please start early.

The awards policy can be found:

[MMS-PR-AUX\(D5NR 16791\)-A-CHAPTER 12-\(01\).pdf](#)

All awards must be given to the AWARDS Board through the Chain of Leadership by midnight, Sunday, January 02, 2022.

The AWARDS Board must submit the award in accordance to policy by midnight, Sunday, January 16, 2022. If an award is higher than my signature, it must be given to my office by midnight, Sunday, December 12, 2021. The DIRAUX email is: D05-SMB-NRDIRAUX@uscg.mil

ORDERS:

My office will fund EXCOM, our DTRAIN Planners, our Division Commanders, and two members from every Division. The members that we will fund must not live within 50 miles of the DTRAIN site. Out of the members from each Division that we fund, both must have never gone to an in person DTRAIN before OR one member that has never been to a DTRAIN in person before and the other must be an active member within that Division.

This list of members must be given to this office by midnight, Sunday, December 12, 2021.

The 2070 form for the members that my office is funding must be received by midnight, Sunday, January 16, 2022. If the 2070 form is not received OR if it is received but not filled out correctly, the member will not receive funding from my office.

CDR Victoria L. Taylor-Davies

U.S. Coast Guard

Director of Auxiliary

Fifth District - Northern Region

History of the District



The History of the Auxiliary Blazer Badge

by COMO Joseph Giannattasio

The Auxiliary Blue Blazer outfit may be substituted for most Auxiliary uniforms, for social events, including conference banquets. The Blue Blazer may be single-breasted, dark blue flannel, tropical worsted, or similar blend; two- or three-button, with civilian or Auxiliary buttons, and with pockets. A component unique to the outfit is the Auxiliary Patch, also known as the Auxiliary blazer badge.

It is extremely difficult to attempt to trace an exact history of the blazer badge because there are a number of origins from which the modern blazer, and the blazer badges that adorn them, descend. The first incarnation of the blazer began life as a rowing jacket in the early 1800's, worn by members of the rowing club of St. John's College, Cambridge. The club jackets were termed blazers because of the bright red cloth which were said to have created a "blaze" of color when worn by the rowers. Another theory places the origins of the blazer to the Captain of HMS Blazer who, in 1837, dressed his crew in dark blue double-breasted jackets adorned with brass buttons, in an effort to impress the visiting Queen Victoria. The attire met with the royal approval, and this style of jacket soon spread to other ships. This, today, is known commonly as the navy blazer. The opportunity to provide the wearer individual expression and individuality comes in the form of the blazer badge. Traditionally worn to denote membership or affiliation to a particular group or organization, but not exclusively for this purpose, the blazer badge adorns the out-breast pocket, adding a certain level of character to the garment.

There is very little documentation available on the subject but research indicates the first Auxiliary blazer badge was a hand embroidered gold & silver bullion wire circle and Auxiliary shield centered on a black background.

By 1966 the Auxiliary blazer badge design changed to the silver "shield and crossed anchors" circled insignia of silver wire bullion on a black background. This version of the blazer patch began incorporating clutch back pins, which allows the patch to be removed or reapplied to a different jacket.

An alternative design was offered around 1975 of the silver eagle and crossed anchors emblem with a centered blue and gold shield, embroidered in colored metallic threads on black backing.



Continued on the next page...

The History of the Auxiliary Blazer Badge

Continued

Noted to be issued in the early 1970's, the current official blazer patch is round and contains a wire bullion Auxiliary logo with stars around it on a black felt backing with clutch back pins. The latest representation is the same design, but made with silver metallic thread.

All Auxiliary blazer patches are officially designed and approved by the National Board and offered through the Auxiliary Center (AUXCEN).

Just like any other item of Auxiliary outfits, the Blue Blazer has come a long way since it was first introduced. To this day, both blazers and blazer badges play major roles within the Auxiliary and can usually be seen on special occasions, particularly business meetings, social events and banquets, among others. The Blue Blazer appears to be one of those items of Auxiliary clothing that will continue to remain popular for many years to come and so the badges that adorn them will continue to remain as popular.



Resources: NAVIGATOR

PHOTO CAPTIONS: (All photographs of items from the COMO Joseph Giannattasio's collection).

Previous page, top:

The earliest example of the Auxiliary Blazer Badge.

Previous page, middle:

Auxiliary Blazer Badge beginning around 1966.

Previous page, bottom:

Alternative Auxiliary Blazer Badge design offered around 1975

Above:

Original bullion version of the current Auxiliary Blazer Badge design.



District 5NR Obscura

A Chronicle of local legends,
unusual places, and peculiarities
in District Fifth Northern.



Martian Landing Site

District 5NR Obscura

A Chronicle of local legends, unusual places, and peculiarities in District Fifth Northern.

Composed of three states (DE, NJ, PA), District Fifth Northern is notable for its well-known rich history on display at the Liberty Bell, Philadelphia; renowned NJ resort towns Asbury Park and Cape May; and the first of the original 13 states of the Union; Delaware.

Now TOPSIDE is offering our members this forum, District 5NR Obscura, to share some of the Cool, Hidden, and Unusual things to see In Auxiliary District Fifth Northern. If you know of an interesting, curious or obscure place within your part of the district, send the Editor a couple photos with a brief description so other members can enjoy and maybe witness during a road trip.

Martian Landing Site - In a quaint public park stands a bronze monument to the infamous October 30th, 1938 evening radio broadcast when Orson Welles reported a Martian landing and attack in Grover's Mill (West Windsor Township), New Jersey. While it was merely a pre-Halloween prank, a radio adaptation of H. G. Wells' novel, *The War of the Worlds*, many took the broadcast as fact. This is sort of war memorial to the interplanetary war of the imagination. (Photographs by COMO Joe Giannattasio)



Photos from Across the District





CAPE MAY, NJ - Coast Guard Auxiliarists from South Jersey Division 08 had the opportunity to work with a USCG STATION CAPE MAY small-boat crews performing towing-training evolutions. Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels provide practical training platforms for Coast Guard crews becoming more familiar working with various types of recreational boats.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by
COMO J. Giannattasio*



CAPE MAY, NJ - Coxswain John Burns underway during patrol. Photo taken before October 1, 2021

Photo by J. Giannattasio



Left: Flotilla 12-03's September meeting
Right: Slaughter Beach Fun Day at the Beach.

Submitted by Ernie Stevens FC 12-03



Auxiliary Support of Graduation

TRACEN Cape May: As promised in the Summer 2021 edition of Topside, more photographs of Auxiliarists from the surrounding flotillas (08-02, 08-03, and 08-06) actively support recruit graduation ceremonies by driving shuttles and cooking and serving breakfasts for attending families.

These photos are Auxiliarists from Flotilla 08-02. Photographs taken Summer 2021.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Sandy Dalton



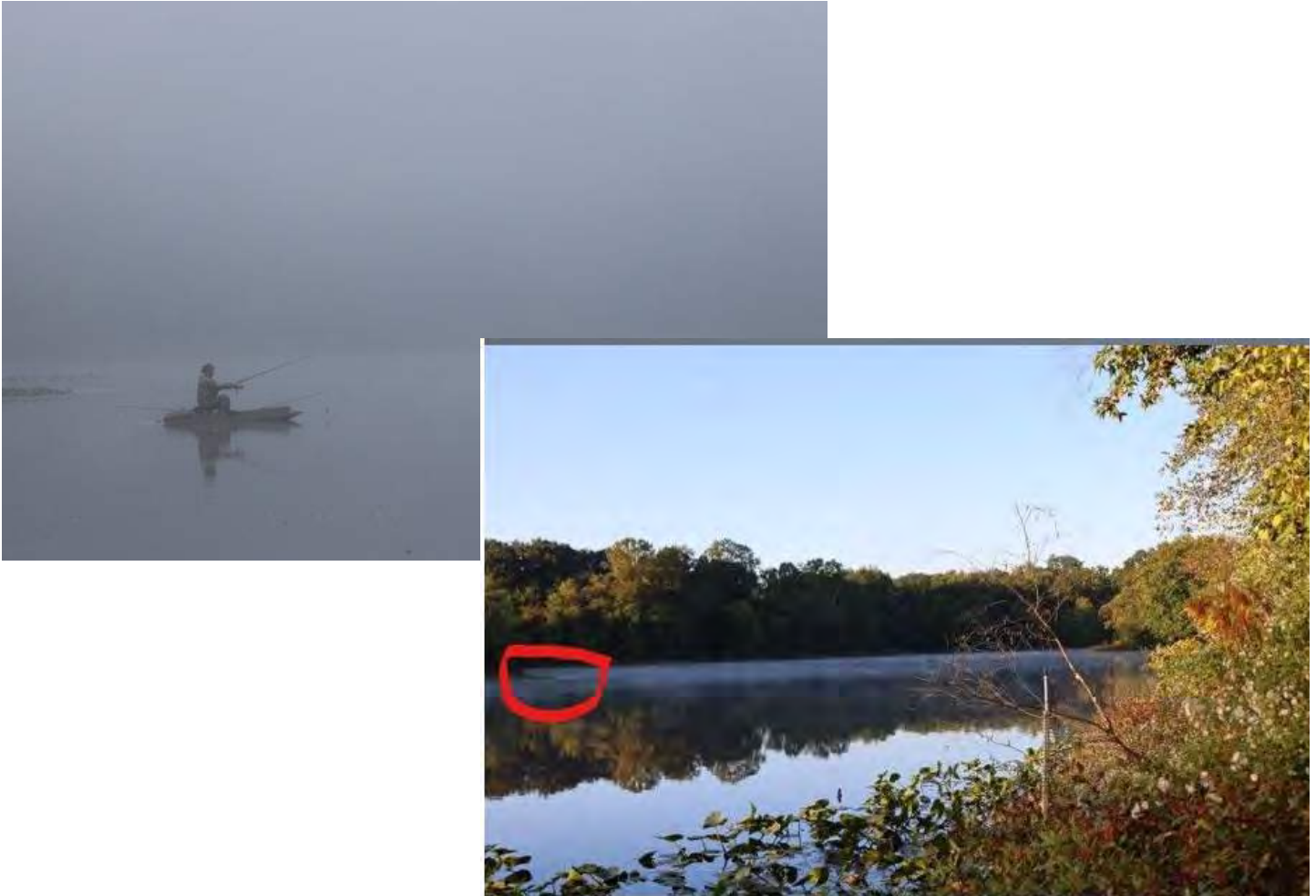
Coast Guard Day 2021

Sector Delaware Bay: As promised in the Summer 2021 edition of Topside, more photographs of the August 4, 2021 Coast Guard Day event.

Photographs taken by Barbara Sama, ADSO-PB



Safe Boating Reminders



The photo on the left was taken on a Sunday at 7:30am. The clear photo of the same spot was on the Saturday before at about 8:00 am. Although it looks like a peaceful early Sunday morning of fishing, this fisherman, dressed in camo, no PFD, no lights, is an accident waiting to happen. He definitely won't be seen should something happen to him. He won't be spotted by other boats at Becks Pond. And if he falls off the boat, he won't be easily spotted due to his Camouflaged outfit. Plus, he is alone. Let's hope he told someone where he is fishing.

Think Safety when you go to ANY area to fish. Be it a small pond like this, Becks Pond, or a large lake or even off-shore. And the fish don't care what you are wearing! Be seen!

Things to make sure you have when you go out on the water:

PFD?

Lights?

Float plan?

Buddy system?

Emergency equipment?

*Photographs taken by **Barbara Sama**, AUXPA1*

Division 12 Training Event



Lewes, Delaware; Division 12 training patrol on 18 Sep 2021. The members who were on James (Jim) Stelene's Facility were, Jim Stelene, (Coxswain); Flotilla 12-02, Al. Grimminger (Coxswain); Flotilla 12-05, Douglas Deiss (Crew); Flotilla 12-01 and Cathy Birk (Crew); Flotilla 12-02. A very good training period was held by all.

Photographs taken by Al Grimminger, 12-05



Flotilla 82 Activities



Flotilla 82 swears in new member,
Vince Ricevuto

Photograph taken by Sandy Dalton



Flotilla 82 during
National Night Out

*Photograph taken by
Sandy Dalton*

Patrol at Cape May

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by COMO J. Giannattasio

CAPE MAY, NJ - While underway on patrol, Auxiliarists from the Cape May Flotilla had the opportunity to work with a USCG STATION CAPE MAY small-boat crew performing training evolutions. Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels provide practical training platforms for Coast Guard crews becoming more familiar working with various types of recreational boats. Photos taken on September 5, 2021.



COMMS Center

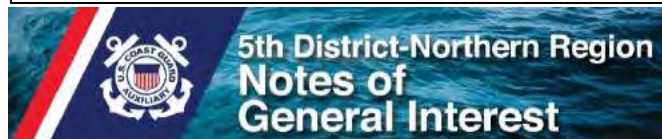


Fall 2021 Issue – notices from August 1 2021 - November 1, 2021

COMMS CENTER

NEWS FROM 5th DISTRICT-NORTHERN REGION

RESEND NOGI 24SEP21 Help Wanted at SECDEL BAY / Communication Services (CS) Training District-wide Distribution to ALL Members



RESEND—Date Corrected for CS Training

Online Training

Communication Services (CS)

Correct Date: Tuesday, 28 September, 7-9 pm
Instructor: Rick Taylor
District Staff Officer-Communication Services (DSO-CS)

The National department for the USCG Auxiliary websites is Websites withOut Webmasters (WOW). Some team members have asked for a refresher or first-time training on WOW. We are planning this session to not only start from the beginning if the attendees wish, but also deeper dive into WOW capabilities as well as alternative sites and how one can make them all work together.

The following registration link was correct in the prior email.

Please register for Communication Services Training

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT at:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6284104095291488770>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the training.

Help Wanted

USCG Sector Delaware Bay

Needs Auxiliarist Volunteers

AUX SUPPORT REQUEST 2021-13

Unveiling of CGC EMLÉN TUNNELL

Three categories of duties are needed:

Culinary Assistants – Requires food service experience with quals. (Cooking uniform required)

Ushers – Greet guests and direct them to unveiling. (Trops uniform required)

Parking Attendants – Direct guests of where to park their vehicles. You would not park the car for the guest. (Trops uniform required)

Skillsets Needed:

Culinary Assistant – Requires food service experience with quals.

Ushers – Friendly, good with people skills and some knowledge of military protocol, as you will be addressing high ranking officials.

Parking Attendants – Friendly, good with people skills and some knowledge of military protocol, as you will be addressing high ranking officials.

Time Line Needed:

Friday, October 15, 2021 – Arrive at Sector Delaware Bay no later than 0830am— earlier arrival preferred. Sector Delaware Bay is located at 1 Washington Ave Philadelphia, PA 19147. Immediately leave Sector and walk as a group to Penn's Landing, where the ceremony will take place.

Point of Contact:

Please contact/email if interested in volunteering:
AUX Diego Herrera
908-391-4759

Diego.Herrera@uscg.mil

Please copy D05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil

Number of AUX needed:

Culinary Assistant – Five
 Ushers – Three
 Parking Attendants – Three

Location:

Sector Delaware Bay. 1 Washington Ave,
 Philadelphia, PA 19147 / Penn's Landing

AUX SUPPORT REQUEST 2021-15**Thanksgiving Dinner****Description of Duties**

Culinary Assistant – Cook dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25, 2021 for Sector Delaware Bay Coast Guard personnel that are standing watch. Meal will be completed by 1400, feeding approximately 25 members.

Skillset Needed

Currently qualified Auxiliary Culinary Assistant.

Timeline Needed

Thursday, November 25
 Arrive at Sector Delaware Bay at 0700.
 Meal to be completed by 1400 for approximately 25 members.

Point of Contact

Please contact/email if interested in volunteering:
 Chief R. Snyder
 office: 215-271-4822 cell: 609-224-9623
Roy.A.Snyder@uscg.mil
 Please copy D05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil

**We need your help in reporting to
 Senior Coast Guard Officers all of the
 good things that we are doing**

To keep the U.S. Coast Guard 5th District Commander RADM Laura M. Dickey and USCG Sector Delaware Bay Commander Captain Jonathon Theel informed of Auxiliary activities, we are producing a report that is a look-ahead of the upcoming week's expected activities. The resulting **D5NR Outreach Activities Detail Report** will be posted on the 5nr.org website after the data is collected.

For the information to be as accurate as possible, we are requesting that each Flotilla report their upcoming activities via an online form that will automatically email the information to the DSO-CS team. The form should be filled out by a designee of the Flotilla which could be the applicable FSO.

What is to be reported includes:

- Vessel Exam Blitz or Multi-Unit event (Multiple VEs concentrating on a single or connected sites)
- Public Affairs Events
- Marine Safety event (Clean-up days, School MS Displays, etc.)
- Any other Public Outreach Event

The reporting week runs from the upcoming Monday through the following Sunday with the report feeds coming from each Flotilla or other appropriate level of the organization. Deadline for submission is the Friday before the reporting week. The designated reporter to complete the form on the D5NR site is determined by the Flotilla.

Example: Activities for the week of 26Apr2021 through 2May2021 need to be reported by Friday, 23Apr2021.

The form routes to the District CS team to assemble the report and distribute.

NOTE: Submitters of the form should use their email address that is registered in AuxOfficer. The Outreach Location on the form is the name of the site such as Bob's Marina, followed by the city and state at which the site is located.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping the Gold Side informed of our significant contributions.

<https://5nr.org/upcoming-activities-report-form/>

Rick Taylor

District Staff Officer-Communications Services (DSO-CS)
 717-421-7564
rbtaylorii@comcast.net



AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP LINK

From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary activity

02 AUG 2021



NACON 2021 is Postponed

As we all know, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is sweeping across the United States. The State of Florida is the nation's number one hot-spot, centered in the crosshairs of this virulent and seemingly relentless virus. It is being reported that currently there are ZERO hospital beds available in Orlando, so if a member was to become ill, even from a non-COVID related issue, they might be unable to obtain appropriate care.

The overarching concern of your Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary leadership in these never-to-be-forgotten times continues to be the safety of the workforce. Whether active duty, reserve, Auxiliary, or civilian, nothing is more important to me, to the Commandant, and to the Secretary of Homeland Security than protecting the health and well-being of those who serve.

If we have learned anything from our intensive risk management training, it is that we must constantly weigh the risks we are undertaking against the gain that would come from executing the mission. We are trained to do that when we are assigned to duty, and we are urged to utilize that same calculus in our daily lives. I have done that, and in consultation with the Chief Director of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, the Commandant, and multiple Flag Officers of our Coast Guard, I have concluded that there is no rational alternative to postponing NACON.

Without question, the training we receive, the connections we make, the information that we share, the relationships that we strengthen, and the camaraderie and fellowship that we enjoy at NACON contribute immeasurably to our being ready, resourceful, relevant, and resilient. But there is also no question that the risk posed to our lives and well-being by this deadly virus is real and far

outweighs the potential gain from holding NACON in August as planned.

I am exploring the options available to us, such as holding NACON later this year if conditions permit, or perhaps combining NACON with NTRAIN. Nothing is off the table, but my first priority must be the safety of our members. Travelling to Florida and meeting in person is just not consistent with honoring that priority.

Obviously, this is a fluid situation with critical information changing minute to minute. Guidance will be forth coming shortly regarding orders, hotel reservations, and airline tickets. Your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated.

Very respectfully,

Alex Malewski, National Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary activity

13 August 2021



THE SECOND QUARTER 2021 NAVIGATOR EXPRESS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

The Second Quarter Edition of the Navigator Express is available online now!

Just click on the links below to read stories titled:

- How We Make a Difference in the Coast Guard Auxiliary
- About the Auxiliary
- Benefits of Auxiliary Association Membership
- From the Commandant
- Why I Serve
- USCG Auxiliary Experience Counts

- VADM Linda Fagan Joins an Auxiliary Patrol
- Auxiliary Search & Rescue
- Ice Rescue Training
- District 7 Rocks National Safe Boating



Week

- AUXAIR District 14's Pandemic Response
- District 7 Prevention
- Rescue at Sea Wards
- Semper Paratus Walk/Run
- Cyber Security
- Vessel Safety Checks
- Chain of Leadership
- Auxiliary's Digital Evolution
- Life Jackets Save Lives

[Access the E-Magazine](#)

[Access to PDF Magazine](#)



From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

September 26, 2021



The "Responder" is the Newsletter of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary's National Response Directorate

The July 2021 issue is now available on the "R" Directorate website at: [July 2021 Responder](#)
This issue features:

- Plan Ahead
- AUX SAR in D14
- Offering a Radio for Auxiliary Use
- Beyond TCT Mission Reporting Reminders
- Bravo ZULU
- Operational Tips

- Wear It Proudly and Correctly:
- Safety Tip
- Man Overboard
- What's New

From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity September 26, 2021

October 20, 2021



Ever wonder what your shipmates on the National Staff do for the Auxiliary? Here's your chance to find out.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Second Virtual live meeting of the National Operating Committee (OPCOM) this coming Saturday, October 23rd from 1300 to 1730 EDT.

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube. Log on to watch members of the dedicated and hardworking National Staff report to the National Executive Committee, the Chief Director of the Auxiliary, and our shipmates nationwide, as they describe some their Directorates' successes and challenges of the past year.

The meeting will also feature as Guest Speakers Vice Admiral Scott Buschman, Deputy Commandant for Operations, USCG, and Rear Admiral, John W. Mauger, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, USCG.

To join the meeting click on: <https://www.youtube.com/uscoastguardauxiliarynationalevents>

Operating Committee reports will be given by the eight Assistant National Commodores, the Directors of the Auxiliary's 14 Directorates, and members of their staffs.

Chief Counsel

Douglas S. Cream (ANACO-CC)

Chief Financial Officer

Robert O. Bruce (ANACO-CF)

Diversity & Inclusion



David G. Porter (ANACO-DV)

FORCECOM

Gregory B. Kester (ANACO-FC)

Information Technology

Susan Ann Davies (ANACO-IT)

Performance and Student Programs

Peter K. Jensen (ANACO-PS)

Recreational Boating Safety Outreach

Robert M. Laurer (ANACO-RB)

Response and Prevention

Frederick George Saunders, Jr
(ANACO-RP)

Public Affairs

Lourdes R. Oliveras (DIR-A)

Recreational Boating Safety

Christopher A. Wilson (DIR-B)

Computer Software & Systems

Amanda Leigh Constant (DIR-C)

Public Education

David M. Fuller (DIR-E)

Human Resources

Lee George Zimmerman (DIR-H)

International Affairs

David T. Huang (DIR-I)

Performance Measurement

Kevin Redden (DIR-M)

Prevention

Kim Marie Cole (DIR-P)

Emergency Mgt. & Disaster Response

Robert G. Tippet (DIR-Q)

Response

Roy Savoca (DIR-R)

Student Programs

Jeannemarie C. McNamara (DIR-S)

Training

Gerlinde Higginbotham (DIR-T)

IT User Support & Services

Gerald R. Patton (DIR-U)

Vessel Examination & Partner Visitation

James A. Cortes (DIR-V)

I encourage you to join us.

Best regards,

Gus Formato

Vice National Commodore

From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

Distribution:

All Auxiliarists

Date: 28 OCT 2021



THIRD QUARTER 2021 NAVIGATOR EXPRESS
AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

- From The Commandant
- Save A Life, Wear It
- Catch The Wave
- Engine Cutoff Devices
- AUXAIR Search & Rescue
- Sharing Our Mission: Public Affairs
- PA Photography Course
- 7 Ways To Remain Active During COVID-19
- Emergency Beacons
- Auxiliary Culinary Assistance: Mission Support
- Change of Command
- AUX Culinary Assistance
- Auxiliary's 9/11 Response
- RBS Goes Digital
- Auxiliary Medevac
- Safe Boating
- Life Jackets Save Lives
- Guardians of Cuisine
- Benefits of Membership
- Obituaries
- Eternal Father
- Contact/Submissions

[Access the E-Magazine](#)

[Access to PDF Magazine](#)

L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

Distribution:

All Auxiliarists

Date: 29 OCT 2021



The October 2021 Issue of RBS Job One is now on-line. It contains useful information for everyone involved in promoting Recreational Boating Safety.

This issue features information of a variety of Recreational Boating Safety topics, including:

- 2020 RBS Statistics Released
- Boating Safety Tips
- Recruiting by PE Classes
- AUXLWO Program Vital for Boating Safety

Members are encouraged to read this issue for the very useful and informative material:

To open the October 2021 issue of RBS Job One

click here: [Recreational Safe Boating Rocks](#).

To open the October 2021 issue of RBS Job One

click here: [Recreational Safe Boating Rocks](#)

Photo: Sailing students cross the bow of the Buffalo, NY Fireboat Edward W. Cotter while underway in the Buffalo River. Coast Guard Auxiliary Photo. © Copyright 2021 Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

NATIONAL NOTICES



03 AUG 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 027/21

**Subj: EXTENSION TO AUX-SOP-004(A)
04 Sep 20 ELECTION OF UNIT OFFICERS
THROUGH THE USE OF ELECTRONIC
MEANS**

1. Due to the ongoing restrictions of face-to-face meetings across the country from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Director of Auxiliary has granted an extension on AUX-SOP-004(A) for the 2021 election cycle.

2. These changes are effective immediately albeit on a temporary basis the duration of which shall end as determined by the Chief Director of Auxiliary.

4. Internet release is authorized.





04 AUG 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 028/21

**Subj: UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S
231ST BIRTHDAY**

1. Today, the United States Coast Guard celebrates its 231st year of dedicated service to the maritime public across the world. Its distinguished history is highlighted by the devoted support it receives every

day from its uniformed volunteers of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Please read the following ALCOAST message recognizing this special milestone...and happy birthday, U.S. Coast Guard!

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

R 041230Z AUG 21

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC

TO ALCOAST

BT

UNCLAS

ALCOAST 279/21

SSIC 5700

**SUBJ: UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S
231ST BIRTHDAY**

1. Today, as we celebrate the Coast Guard's 231st birthday, I reflect on our rich history and heritage, as well as the extraordinary level of service of our talented Coast Guard workforce delivered throughout the past year. Across the globe, our Service responded amidst the ongoing global pandemic, adapting to constantly changing conditions and always maintaining a taut watch. Every one of you—active duty, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary—delivered mission excellence and remained "Always Ready."

2. The Coast Guard performs complex missions in the most challenging maritime environments. Our multi-mission capabilities, broad authorities, organizational agility and flexibility, and incident response expertise position the Service for excellence and leadership in the maritime domain; this year is no exception. As Americans stepped-up to support their neighbors, and healthcare and service workers faced uncertain risks in their devoted care of others, our workforce faced each day with courage and skill. Coast Guard Day presents a terrific opportunity to pause for a moment and thank all those who have supported us through this dynamic 231st year.

3. What a year it has been. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, our operational units have been working incredibly hard, deployed globally to enhance maritime security, partnerships, and vital national interests. CGC POLAR STAR conducted a two-month winter patrol in the Arctic, the first such patrol in 38 years, while CGC HAMILTON completed a historic deployment to the Black Sea – our first major cutter patrol there since 2008. And CGC MIDGETT and CGC OLIVER BERRY recently participated in 3rd Fleet training exercises with the Carl Vinson Strike Group off Hawaii, while CGC MUNRO is currently enroute to support 7th Fleet and INDOPACOM operations. Coast Guard Districts, Sectors, cutters, aircraft, and other assets responded to 12 storms impacting our U.S. coastline during the busiest Atlantic Basin hurricane season on record. They also assisted in wildfires in Oregon and California, deployed personnel in response to record flooding in the heartland, and provided medical and logistical support to DHS partners operating along the Southwest Border. Our inland cutters and Sectors responded to over 1,100 marine incidents including casualties, oil discharges, hazardous material releases, and myriad security threats. In May, our Coast Guard Advanced Interdiction Team embarked aboard USS Monterey, a Guided Missile Cruiser, boarded a dhow in the Northern Arabian Sea and confiscated thousands of illicit weapons. Of note, all of the aforementioned operational successes and accomplishments were enabled by the professionalism and responsiveness of our Mission Support workforce.

4. As we celebrate our 231st birthday, it is your perseverance and dedication that make the United States Coast Guard the best in the world. This year has truly accentuated a Coast Guard that is Ready, Relevant, and Responsive! I thank each and every one of you for your continued service, and your

families for their perpetual support in these most worthy endeavors.

5. ADM K. L. Schultz, Commandant (CCG), sends.

6. Internet release is authorized.



16 AUG 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX



ALAUX 029/21

Subj: **FINANCIAL SYSTEM
BLACKOUT/CUTOVER IMPACT ON
AUXILIARY PATROL ORDERS**

(a) COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
301527Z JUN 21/ALCOAST 237/21

1. As announced in reference (a), the Coast Guard will start its final Go-Live system check and transition to the new DHS financial management and procurement system called the Financial Systems Modernization Solution (FSMS) from October 01, 2021 to November 15, 2021. The FSMS interfaces with many Coast Guard information systems including the Coast Guard's Auxiliary information system of record, AUXDATA II. During this time, referred to as the financial system blackout/cutover period, there will be significant impacts on all of these information systems including on the processing of Auxiliary patrol claims in AUXDATA II. Most notably, any Auxiliary patrol order claims submitted after October 01, 2021 will not be processed for reimbursement until after November 15, 2021.

2. In anticipation of the upcoming blackout/cutover period, any patrol orders currently in AUXDATA II need to be closed out prior to September 20, 2021.

This will allow several days to resolve any potential claim issues prior to the last allowable close out date of September 24, 2021. Any claims not processed prior to this date will not be processed by the Coast Guard Finance Center (FINCEN) until after the scheduled end of the blackout/cutover period, November 15, 2021.

3. Only Auxiliary patrols determined by the Order Issuing Authority (OIA) to be mission essential should be performed during the blackout/cutover period. Auxiliarists performing such patrols must understand that their claims for reimbursement of associated authorized expenses will not be settled until after the period's end, November 15, 2021.

4. If there are questions, please use your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) or Chain of Command as appropriate.

5. Internet release is authorized.



23

AUG 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 030/21

Subj: **2020 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR**

1. Auxiliarist Patrick M. Brown of Eighth District-Eastern Region (D8-ER), Flotilla 11-5 in Nashville, TN is the 2020 Auxiliarist of the Year. The following ALCOAST recently announced his selection. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Brown!

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

R 191828Z AUG 21

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON
DC
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS
ALCOAST 298/21
SSIC 16790
SUBJ: 2020 AUXILIARIST OF THE
YEAR

1. I am pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Patrick M. Brown of Eighth District-Eastern Region (D8-ER), Flotilla 11-5 in Nashville, Tennessee as the 2020 Auxiliarist of the Year.

2. Mr. Brown enrolled in the Auxiliary in April 2014 and immediately became an active participant by holding various flotilla leadership positions including Vice Flotilla Commander and eventually Flotilla Commander. Along with serving as the District Commodore's Aide, in 2020 he was appointed as the National Branch Chief for Media/Video. In this capacity, Mr. Brown answered the call of Auxiliary national leadership to develop a safe and secure method to conduct elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. He adeptly applied his superb skills to facilitate virtual elections at the Auxiliary's national, district, division and flotilla levels. Mr. Brown ensured appropriate software and programs were effectively used and numerous test runs were performed to identify potential issues and ensure they were rectified. As the Auxiliary's Election Administrator, he managed the polling website during all electronic elections and immediately resolved concerns as they arose. He was instrumental to the development of the "Election of Unit Officers Through the Use of Electronic Means" Standard Operating Procedure, a comprehensive policy document issued by the Chief Director of Auxiliary that established ground-breaking procedures for the Auxiliary's virtual elections. His meticulous effort enabled rapid Auxiliary-wide familiarization with this new technology, facilitated successful conduct of over 1,000 time-sensitive Auxiliary elections, ensured Auxiliary leadership continuity despite the pandemic's restrictive impacts, and resoundingly proved the efficacy of virtual elections. Devoted to professional development and service, he also maintained currency as an Auxiliary instructor and vessel examiner, and logged over 745 hours of activity.

3. Committed to service and helping others, Mr. Brown also led community cleanup efforts following the EF4 tornado that devastated several middle-Tennessee communities in March 2020. He oversaw the removal of over 50 tons of home and storm debris from local neighborhoods, including vital storm water canals that fed directly into the Old Hickory watershed in the Cumberland River system.
4. I applaud Mr. Brown's dedication to the success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the face of the challenging COVID-19 pandemic and his compassionate contributions to his local community.
5. POC: CDR Edgardo Cruz, COMDT (CG-BSX-11) at: Edgardo.Cruz@uscg.mil.
6. RDML John W. Mauger, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P), sends.
7. Internet release is authorized.



03 SEP 2021
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 031/21

**SUBJ: AVAILABILITY OF A NEW BLOOD
BORNE PATHOGEN ONLINE TRAINING
COURSE**

1. Successful completion of the Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) training course remains a requirement for Auxiliarists to be assigned to duty performing ordered patrol missions for Coast Guard commands.
2. A new version of the BBP training course is now available to be completed through the Auxiliary Online Classroom (<http://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/course/view.php?id=205>). This version is an acceptable alternative to the BBP training course that has been available in

the COVID portfolio of the Auxiliary course catalog in the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS / <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>). When taken through the Auxiliary Online Classroom, a screen shot of the course completion notice must be sent by the Auxiliarist to their servicing Information Services (IS) officer as validation for subsequent AUXDATA II entry. Until a link to record this course completion in AUXDATA II is established, Auxiliarists should still retain a copy of their course completion (electronic acceptable) to provide an Order Issuing Authority (OIA) if necessary.

3. Internet release is authorized.



15 SEP 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 032/21

SUBJ: PASSING OF PAST NATIONAL COMMODORE

1. We are saddened to inform all Auxiliarists of the passing of Past National Commodore Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. who passed away on September 3, 2021. Commodore Bertelsen led an incredible life dedicated to service to our Nation in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and U.S. Power Squadrons.

2. Commodore Bertelsen joined the Auxiliary in 1975 and was an active member in his flotilla in Bellevue WA. He proudly served in several national positions, as the District 13 Commodore, and as the National Commodore from 2001-2002. He was instrumental in guiding our Nation through the extraordinary challenge wrought by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Applying unparalleled operational expertise, insight, and initiative, he quickly composed the Auxiliary's Operation Patriot Readiness. This comprehensive road map fully integrated Auxiliary skills and resources into the Coast Guard's missions and has

helped protect and safeguard our Nation ever since.

3. COMO Bertelsen is survived by his wife Sandy, his son, daughter and two grandchildren. A funeral service will be conducted at Tahoma National Cemetery on September 16, 2021. Please join us in sending thoughts and prayers to Commodore Bertelsen's family and friends in this difficult time.

4. Internet release is authorized.



15 SEP 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 033/21

Subj: AUXDATA II SKILLS AND AVAILABILITY SEARCH

1. AUXDATA II is now the primary database for searching for Auxiliarists' skills and availabilities, including willingness to travel and willingness to perform Coast Guard support missions. The former "Skills Bank" has been retired and is no longer accessible.

2. Auxiliarists' skills and occupational codes are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) skills codes. They were updated from the 2010 codes in legacy AUXDATA to the more recent 2018 codes. In preparation for hurricane season, and because of the updated skills codes, ALAUX 012/21 asked all Auxiliarists to review and update their occupational skills, expertise, and availabilities in their AUXDATA II member records.

3. There are now several ways to search for skills and availability in AUXDATA II:

a. By Member: This is useful when you want to determine the skills and availability of a known.

b. By Skill: This is useful when you want to get a quick idea of how many Auxiliarists possess a specific skill. Although relatively easy, searching for skills in this manner does not allow for refining the search such as by district.

c. By Members With Skills (A Report): The Members With Skills Report is the most useful way to search for skills and availability as well as to filter the results by any desired criteria such as district, willingness to travel, etc. The only limitation is the need to become familiar with how to create reports.



4. Detailed instructions for each of these defined searches and the report are available on the "Member How To" page found at the AUXDATA II site at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=IT-GROUP&category=auxdata-ii>.

5. If you have any questions about how to search for skills and availability, contact your Flotilla Staff Officer for Information Services (FSO-IS).

6. Internet release is authorized.



16 SEP 2021
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 034/21

Subj: AUXILIARY COXSWAIN AND BOAT CREW INITIAL QUALIFICATION NIGHT

TASKS NO LONGER WAIVABLE - CG-BSX POLICY LETTER 21-03

To All Coast Guard Auxiliary Personnel

1. On 09 September 2021, the Chief Director of the Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 21-03, Auxiliary Coxswain and Boat Crew Initial Qualification Night Tasks No Longer Waivable. The purpose of this policy letter is to make nighttime initial qualification tasks mandatory as part of the initial qualification process for Coxswain and Boat Crew Member. All District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Operations Training Officers (OTO), and Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter.

2. The policy letter can be found on the Coast Guard Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: BSX Policy Letters ([uscgaux.info](http://www.uscgaux.info))

3. Internet Release is authorized.



23 SEP 2021
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 035/21

Subj: CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES AWARENESS REMINDER

1. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. All Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant against cybersecurity threats and to actively apply strong countermeasures in their personal and Auxiliary activities. In 2017, more than 300,000 individuals in over 150 countries fell victim to the WannaCry ransomware attack in a single weekend causing the loss of countless files and billions of dollars in damages. Threats like these are still prevalent and dangerous, and it is critical that we all

take the necessary steps to prevent an attack. The following ten practices are highly effective methods to achieve a strong cybersecurity posture:

- Use strong passwords and create separate passwords for each account.
- Use current and supported operating systems.
- Install all system security updates and patches.
- Keep antivirus software up to date.
- Regularly scan files for viruses.
- Install spyware protection software.
- Turn on firewall protection.
- Regularly back up and securely store files.
- Change default logon ID and passwords for operating systems and applications.
- Use caution when opening emails and do not view emails in preview pane mode.

2. To view the entire U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Cybersecurity Awareness presentation, click [here](#).

3. Internet Release is authorized.

2. This policy letter has been revised again effective 18 October 2021 to limit in-person Auxiliary C-school application and attendance to individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

3. The policy letter can be found on the Coast Guard Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: CG-BSX Policy Letters.

4. Internet release is authorized.



22 OCT 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 037/21

Subj: **RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON
AUXILIARY C-SCHOOLS - REVISION TO
CG-BSX POLICY LETTER 21-01**

1. On 28 May 2021, the Chief Director of the Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 21-01, Resumption of In-Person Auxiliary C-schools. It provided initial guidance for the resumption of in-person Auxiliary C-schools and limited attendance to individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The policy letter was revised on 24 June 2021 to expand in-person Auxiliary C-school attendance to include unvaccinated individuals and define associated home unit Restriction of Movement (ROM) requirements.

A Message from the Editor

Happy November 5NR,

A thank you is in order once again for a fantastic issue with many articles, pictures, information, and content. As I often say, this newsletter would not be successful without you doing all the many activities and important work that you do day in and day out and without the many members sending me pictures and articles of those activities. Thank you.

Please know that Topside does get National attention and people both the gold side and silver side see what amazing things we accomplish in this district. You should be proud.

Please remember, as of October 1, and until further notice, all photographs that I may use in this publication have to show Auxiliarists in masks and social distancing.

As I write this message, Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. Please take time to slow down and reflect on all that you are thankful for in this season.

Semper Paratus,
Tim Marks
DSO-PB



Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
Publications

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region

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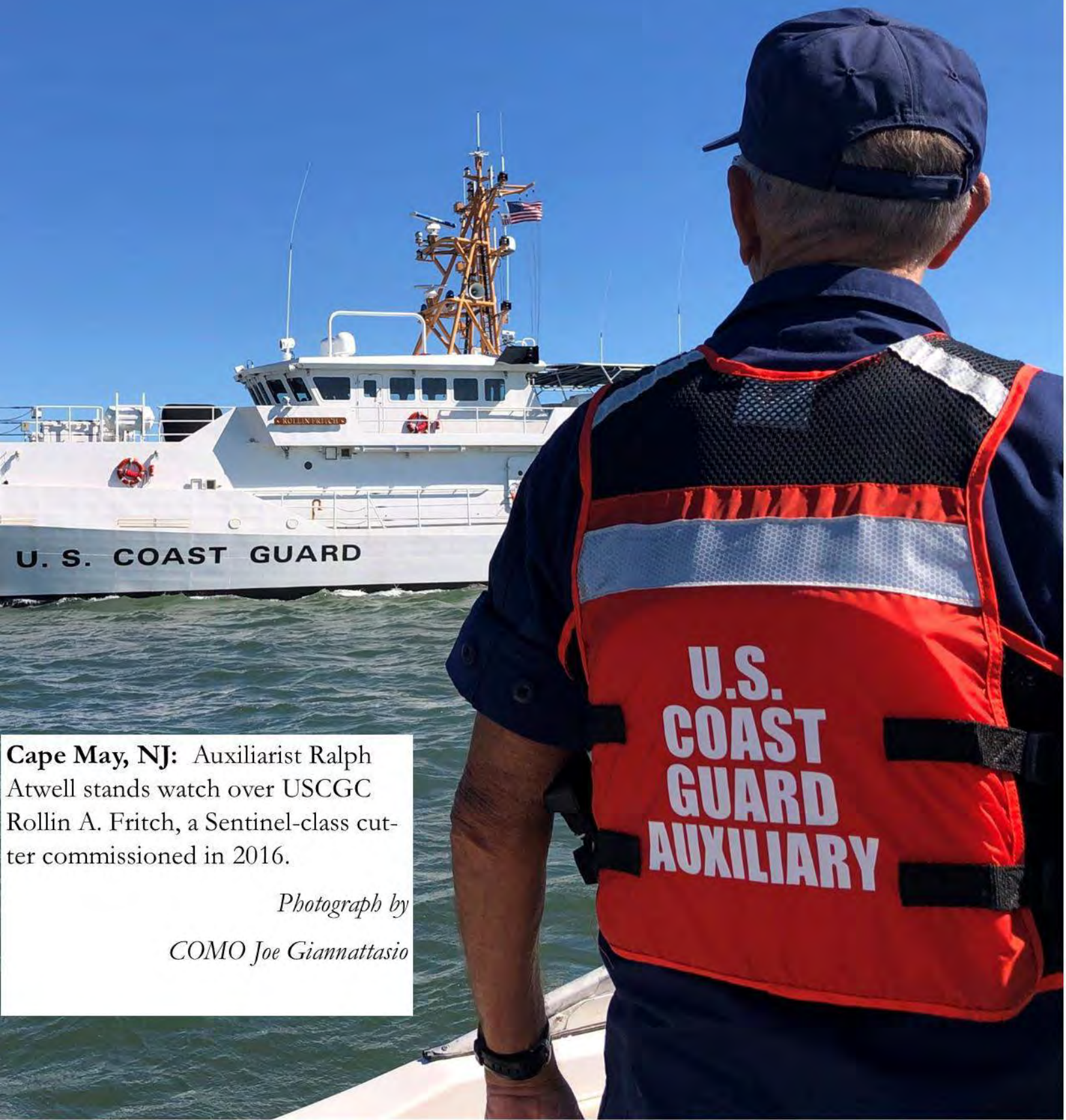
<http://www.cgaux.org/>

5NR Website:

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



Parting Shot



Cape May, NJ: Auxiliarist Ralph Atwell stands watch over USCGC Rollin A. Fritch, a Sentinel-class cutter commissioned in 2016.

*Photograph by
COMO Joe Giannattasio*